



AGENDA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>
Open to Public

May 13, 2025
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
Live Oak, FL

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair
Amendments Recommended by Staff: None
4. Public Comment
5. Consideration of the following Items Collectively by Consent:
 - Agenda Item No. 6 - April 8, 2025 Governing Board Meeting, Audit Committee Meeting, Lands Committee Meeting, and Workshop Minutes
 - Agenda Item No. 11 - March 2025 Financial Report
 - Agenda Item No. 12 - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit
 - Agenda Item No. 13 - Revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan
 - Agenda Item No. 14 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes
 - Agenda Item No. 23 - Declaration of a Surplus Lot Within the Turkey Island Tract, Levy County
 - Agenda Item No. 25 - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Land Management Review Team Report

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6. April 8, 2025 Governing Board Meeting, Audit Committee Meeting, Lands Committee Meeting, and Workshop Minutes - **Recommend Consent**
7. Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
 - A. Hydrologic Conditions Report
 - B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL
Tom Reeves

8. Update on Legal Activities

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director

Administration

9. Facilities Update
10. Contract with Gateway Contracting Inc.

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Finance

- BCS Page 2 11. March 2025 Financial Report – **Recommend Consent**
- BCS Page 7 12. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit – **Recommend Consent**
- BCS Page 8 13. Revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan – **Recommend Consent**
- BCS Page 11 14. Payment in Lieu of Taxes – **Recommend Consent**

Resource Management

- BCS Page 13 15. Permitting Summary Report

Environmental Resource Permitting

- BCS Page 15 16. Environmental Resource Permit Application ERP-001-242142-3, Tara Phoenicia, Alachua County

Environmental Projects

- BCS Page 25 17. Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report
- BCS Page 27 18. Alternative Water Supply Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
- BCS Page 30 19. Springs Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Katelyn Potter, Division Director

Communications and Outreach

- OPS Page 1 20. Outreach and Communications Activity Summary
21. Communications Update

Land Acquisition

- OPS Page 3 22. Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report
- OPS Page 7 23. Declaration of a Surplus Lot within the Turkey Island Tract, Levy County – **Recommend Consent**

Land Management

- OPS Page 15 24. Land Management Update Report
- OPS Page 18 25. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Land Management Review Team Report – **Recommend Consent**

WATER RESOURCES

Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director

26. Water Resources Division Updates

Water Resources

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27. **Public Hearing** and Approval of the 2025 Coastal Rivers Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan Update

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

28. Announcements

29. Governing Board Comments

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at District Headquarters in Live Oak, Florida

June 10, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Board Meeting

Workshop / Committee Meetings

Workshops and Committee Meetings will begin following the Board Meeting unless otherwise noted.

30. Adjournment

Any member of the public, who wishes to address the Board on any agenda item, or any other topic, must sign up (including the completion of the required speaker forms) with the Executive Director or designee before the time designated for Public Comment. During Public Comment, the Chair shall recognize those persons signed up to speak on agenda items first. To the extent time permits, the Chair shall thereafter recognize those persons signed up to speak on non-agenda items. Unless, leave is given by the Chair, (1) all speakers will be limited to three minutes per topic, (2) any identifiable group of three persons or more shall be required to choose a representative, who shall be limited to five minutes per topic. When recognized by the Chair during Public Comment, a speaker may request to be allowed to make his or her comments at the time the Board considers an agenda item. The Chair may grant or deny such request in the Chair's sole discretion.

Definitions:

- "Lobbies" is defined as seeking to influence a district policy or procurement decision or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a district official or employee. (112.3261(1)(b), Florida Statutes [F.S.]
- "Lobbyist" is a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to lobby on behalf of that other person or governmental entity. (112.3215(1)(h), F.S.)

The Board may act upon (including reconsideration) any agenda item at any time during the meeting. The agenda may be changed only for good cause as determined by the Chair and stated in the record. If, after the regular time for Public Comment, the agenda is amended to add an item for consideration, the Chair shall allow public comment on the added agenda item prior to the Board taking action thereon.

All decisions of the Chair concerning parliamentary procedures, decorum, and rules of order will be final, unless they are overcome by a majority of the members of the Board in attendance.

If any person decides to appeal any decision with respect to any action considered at the above referenced meeting and hearing, such person may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made to include testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is made.



AGENDA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP(S)

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>
Open to Public

May 13, 2025
Following Board Meeting

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

- Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Budget Presentation
- Suwannee Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels/Sturgeon Research Discussion



**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>
Open to Public

Note: A digital recording system was used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the materials and handouts are a part of the record as set out in full herein and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

April 8, 2025
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

Governing Board

Seat	Name	Office	Present	Not Present
Aucilla Basin	George Wheeler			X
Coastal River Basin	Richard Schwab	Vice Chair	X	
Lower Suwannee Basin	Larry K. Thompson		X	
Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins	William Lloyd		X	
Upper Suwannee Basin	Larry Sessions		X	
At Large	Virginia H. Johns	Chair	X	
At Large	Charles Keith	Sec./Treas.	X	
At Large	Harry Smith		X	
At Large	Vacant		-	-

Governing Board Legal Counsel

Name	Firm	Present	Not Present
George T. Reeves	Davis, Schnitker, Reeves & Browning, P.A.	X	

Leadership Team

Position	Name	Present	Not Present
Executive Director	Hugh Thomas	X	
Assistant Executive Director	Tim Alexander	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Amy Brown	X	
Executive Office & Board Coordinator	Robin Lamm	X	

Agenda Item No. 3 - Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair:

Updated:

Agenda Item No. 15 - Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Local Cooperative Entities to Receive Springs Grant Funds. Changed to informational item.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment:

- Donna Ellis – Ellaville Tract land swap concerns
- Lorelei McCraney – Ellaville Tract land swap concerns
- Shane Wellendorf – Springs Funding support

Agenda Item No. 5- Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent:

- Agenda Item No. 6 - March 11, 2025 Governing Board Meeting and Lands Committee Meeting Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 10 - February 2025 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 20 - Amendment to Agreement 18/19-050 with the Alachua Conservation Trust
- Agenda Item No. 21 - Extension to Agreement 04/05-269 with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Recreation and Parks

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 6 - March 11, 2025 Governing Board Meeting and Lands Committee Meeting Minutes. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 7 - Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations.

- A. Robbie McKinney, Chief, Office of Water Resources, gave a presentation of hydrologic conditions of the District.
- B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations. Mr. Thomas recognized Rick Hutton, Gainesville Regional Utility, Stacie Greco, Alachua Environmental Protection, and Steve Minnis.
- C. Service Recognition. Paul Buchanan was recognized for 35 years of service. Lisa Cheshire was recognized for her upcoming retirement of 36 years with the District.

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Update. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, updated the Board on the ongoing Jeff Hill lawsuit.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration

Pam Shaw, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Talecia Solomon, Finance Specialist II, to the Board. Leroy Marshall, RM/Projects Division Director, introduced Hays Paul, Environmental Scientist II, to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 9 – Facilities Update. Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration, updated the Board on this item.

Finance

Agenda Item No. 10 – February 2025 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Resource Management

Agenda Item No. 11 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Water Use Permitting

Agenda Item No. 12 – Water Use Permit 2-001-218914-3, Tomoka Hills Golf, Alachua County. David King, Chief, Office of Water Use and Water Well, presented this item to the Board.

Stacie Greco, Alachua Environmental Protection Department, provided a powerpoint presentation to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MR. KEITH VOTED NO. MOTION CARRIED.

Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 13 – Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 14 - Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Local Cooperative Entities to Receive Alternative Water Supply Grant Funds. Mary Diaz, Professional Engineer, presented this item to the Board.

Rick Hutton, Gainesville Regional Utilities, provided comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 15 - Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Local Cooperative Entities to Receive Springs Grant Funds. This item was presented as informational item to the Board. No approval required.

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 16 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Land Acquisition

Agenda Item No. 17 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Resolution 2025-04, Conveyance of District-Owned Newberry Wellfield to City of Newberry. Katelyn Potter, Chief, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SMITH, SECONDED BY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 19 – Land Management Update Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 20 – Amendment to Agreement 18/19-050 with the Alachua Conservation Trust. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 21 – Extension to Agreement 04/05-269 with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Recreation and Parks. Approved on Consent.

WATER RESOURCES

Agenda Item No. 22 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Agenda Item No. 23 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities.

Agenda Item No. 24 - Governing Board Comments. Board Members provided comments to the staff.

Agenda Item No. 25 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Chair

ATTEST:



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
Open to Public

Note: A digital recording system was used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the materials and handouts are a part of the record as set out in full herein and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

April 8, 2025
Following Board Meeting

District Headquarters
Live Oak, FL

1. Call to Order / Committee Roll Call. Meeting began at 11:16 a.m.

Committee Members	Present	Not Present
Virginia Johns	X	
Charles Keith	X	
Richard Schwab	X	
William Lloyd	X	
Larry Sessions	X	

-Board Members Smith and Thompson also attended the Audit Committee Meeting.

2. Public Comment. None

Discussion Items

3. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit. Pam Shaw, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance, introduced Brad Huff, with Powell and Jones, CPA, who presented this report to the Committee.

MOTION MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY LLOYD TO ACCEPT 2023-2024 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan. Ms. Shaw presented this item to the Committee.

MOTION MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY LLOYD TO ACCEPT THE REVISED WORK PLAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Announcements. Upcoming Audit schedule was discussed with the Committee.

6. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Chair

ATTEST:



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
 Open to Public

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April 8, 2025
 Following Board Meeting

District Headquarters
 Live Oak, FL

1. Call to Order / Committee Roll Call. Meeting began at 11:36a.m.

Committee Members	Present	Not Present
Richard Schwab - Chair	X	
Charles Keith	X	
Larry Sessions	X	
Harry Smith	X	
Larry Thompson	X	
George Wheeler		X

-Mrs. Johns and Mr. Lloyd also attended the Lands Committee Meeting.

2. Public Comment:
 - Shane Wellendorf – Avalon Woodland Ravines Conservation Easement support.

Conservation Easements

3. Avalon Woodland Ravines Conservation Easement, Jefferson County. Katelyn Potter, Division Director, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Committee.

MOTION MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED.

Conservation Easements

Agenda Item 5 was discussed prior to Agenda Item 4 for the convenience of guests at our Lands Committee Meeting.

4. Declaration of Surplus Lot Within the Turkey Island Tract, Levy County. Mrs. Potter presented this item to the Committee.

MOTION MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Intergovernmental Agreement for Conveyance of Suwannee Springs Park, Falmouth Spring Park, and Telford Spring Park to Suwannee County. Mrs. Potter presented this item to the Committee.

MOTION MADE BY SESSIONS, SECONDED BY SMITH TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOPS**

Workshop began at 11:56 a.m.

Coastal Rivers Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan

Susie Hetrick, Water Resources Office Chief, provided a powerpoint presentation on the Coastal Rivers Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan.

Workshop adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: May 2, 2025
RE: Contract with Gateway Contracting Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with Gateway Contracting Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$895,550.

BACKGROUND

On March 25, 2025, the District published a request for proposals (RFP) to remove the remaining berms and install fiber cement siding on the main office building. The RFP was published on DemandStar, the District's website, and the State of Florida vendor bid system. There were nine firms represented at the mandatory meeting on April 1, 2025.

These proposals were due and opened on April 16, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Two proposals were submitted. On April 22, 2025, the selection committee met and scored each proposal based on the overall qualifications of the submitters, work experience, length of time in business, location, and price. These scores were then averaged to yield a ranking for the RFP. This ranking can be seen in the table below.

General Construction Firm Name	Primary Office Location	Ranking
Gateway Contracting Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	1
Homes and Buildings Restoration LLC	Orlando, FL	2

Staff recommends that the District enter into negotiations with the top firm listed above and contract for services described in the RFP in an amount not to exceed \$895,550; and if unable to reach agreeable terms with the top firm, enter into negotiations with the second. Retainage will be deducted from each incremental payment until completion and acceptance of the final project. The selected contractor will be responsible for obtaining all permits and maintaining appropriate levels of insurance.

The project is funded by an appropriation from the Florida Legislature in the 2024 General Appropriations Act. Funding for this project is included in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Final Budget.

BG/kl

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: May 2, 2025
RE: March 2025 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the March 2025 Financial Report and confirm the expenditures of the District.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.553(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), authorizes the delegation of authority by the Governing Board to the Executive Director to disburse District funds, providing certification is made to the Board at the next regular meeting that such disbursement is proper, in order, and within budgetary limits. In compliance with the statutory provisions in Chapter 373, F.S., the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District has directed staff to prepare a financial report as attached.

PS/tm
Attachments

**Suwannee River Water Management District
Cash Report
March 2025**

Financial Institution/Account	Monthly Interest	Closing Balance
First Federal Permit Fee	\$17.55	\$517.55
First Federal Accounts Payable	\$52.65	\$35,000.00
First Federal EFT Disbursements	\$864.43	\$103,737.46
First Federal Depository	\$1,026.09	\$821,346.44
Florida PRIME (SBA LGIA)	\$19,384.92	\$5,083,779.40
First Federal ICS Custodian Account	\$63,762.70	\$18,626,646.65
Special Purpose Investment Account (SPIA)*	\$61,296.96	\$19,296,821.81
TOTAL	<u>\$146,405.30</u>	<u>\$43,967,849.31</u>

*SPIA is part of the Treasury Investment Pool administered by Florida Department of Financial Services.

**Suwannee River Water Management District
Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds
For the Month ending March 31, 2025
(Unaudited)**

	Current Budget	Actuals Through 3/31/2025	Variance (Under)/Over Budget	Actuals As A % of Budget
Sources				
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	\$ 7,094,781	\$ 6,272,493	\$ (822,288)	88.4%
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 59,799,239	\$ 2,788,937	\$ (57,010,302)	4.7%
Interest on Invested Funds	\$ 130,000	\$ 734,016	\$ 604,016	564.6%
License and Permit Fees	\$ 223,000	\$ 140,340	\$ (82,660)	62.9%
Other	\$ 1,410,288	\$ 1,367,334	\$ (42,954)	97.0%
Fund Balance ¹	\$ 11,309,970	\$ 1,040,936	\$ (10,269,034)	9.2%
Total Sources	\$ 79,967,278	\$ 12,344,056	\$ (67,623,222)	15.4%

	Current Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances ²	Available Budget	%Expended	%Obligated ³
Uses						
Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	\$ 11,586,257	\$ 2,282,010	\$ 9,014,334	\$ 289,913	20%	97%
Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	\$ 53,303,940	\$ 4,227,649	\$ 29,976,444	\$ 19,099,847	8%	64%
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	\$ 10,391,632	\$ 2,225,748	\$ 3,286,498	\$ 4,879,386	21%	53%
Regulation	\$ 2,335,426	\$ 703,440	\$ 47,847	\$ 1,584,140	30%	32%
Outreach	\$ 211,283	\$ 99,789	\$ 1,602	\$ 109,892	47%	48%
Management and Administration	\$ 2,138,740	\$ 857,106	\$ 115,918	\$ 1,165,716	40%	45%
Total Uses	\$ 79,967,278	\$ 10,395,742	\$ 42,442,642	\$ 27,128,894	13%	66%

¹ Actual Fund Balance used is recorded at the end of the fiscal year. This amount represents Fund Balance used for the Agricultural and RIVER Cost-Share, Regional Water Resource Development, and Project Effectiveness Metrics Programs.

² Encumbrances represent unexpended balances of open purchase orders, contracts, and task work assignments.

³ Represents the sum of expenditures and encumbrances as a percentage of the available budget.

This financial statement is prepared as of March 31 2025 and covers the interim period since the most recent audited financial statements.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)
FOR 3/31/2025

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>Report Recap -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	8,514,183	0	8,858,069
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	2,622,214	0	52,326,239
FEDERAL REVENUES	166,723	0	7,473,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	1,040,936	0	11,309,970
TOTAL REVENUES	12,344,056	0	79,967,278
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	3,435,797	0	8,987,702
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	3,239,585	24,183,443	26,484,784
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	983,327	126,868	2,588,248
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	123,571	54,806	288,044
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	71,352	610,464	10,551,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	2,542,110	17,467,061	31,067,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,395,742	42,442,642	79,967,278
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	1,948,314	(42,442,642)	0
<u>General Fund -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	7,025,188	0	6,528,787
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	1,174,431	0	4,632,000
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	35,332	0	2,862,739
TOTAL REVENUES	8,234,951	0	14,023,526
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	2,976,027	0	7,816,845
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	337,166	1,271,190	2,952,675
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	670,790	51,212	1,683,792
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	37,442	46,865	149,714
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	243,585	730,437	1,420,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,265,010	2,099,704	14,023,526
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	3,969,941	(2,099,704)	0
<u>Land Management Operations -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	1,348,119	0	2,329,282
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	232,505	0	5,660,119
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	30,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	2,667,231
TOTAL REVENUES	1,580,624	0	10,686,632
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	459,420	0	1,165,305
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,215,771	2,233,796	4,031,489
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	312,537	75,656	855,508
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	86,129	7,941	113,330
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	71,352	610,464	3,551,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	81,359	358,641	970,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,226,568 *	3,286,498	10,686,632
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(645,944)	(3,286,498)	0

*To be covered by State Appropriations and Ad Valorem

GB -

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)
FOR 3/31/2025

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>District Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	795,201	0	3,340,000
TOTAL REVENUES	795,201	0	3,340,000
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	44,206	760,779	1,150,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	30,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	25,000
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	750,994	868,054	2,135,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	795,200	1,628,833	3,340,000
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	1	(1,628,833)	0
<u>State Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	140,877	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	1,215,277	0	42,034,120
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	210,403	0	2,440,000
TOTAL REVENUES	1,566,557	0	44,474,120
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	5,552
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,441,435	12,203,928	13,915,620
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	10,948
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	7,000,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	856,300	12,971,020	23,542,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,297,735	25,174,948	44,474,120
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(731,178) *	(25,174,948)	0
<i>*To be reimbursed by State Grants</i>			
<u>Federal Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	166,723	0	7,443,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUES	166,723	0	7,443,000
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	349	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	201,007	7,713,750	4,435,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	8,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	609,871	2,538,909	3,000,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	811,227	10,252,659	7,443,000
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(644,504) *	(10,252,659)	0
<i>*To be reimbursed by Federal Grants</i>			

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit Report

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Audit Committee recommendation to accept the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit Report from Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants.

BACKGROUND

Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), has prepared the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit Report. Staff provided support to Powell and Jones during the preparation of the report. This report:

1. Contains the District's financial statements and accompanying notes and schedules.
2. Reflects the financial activities for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.
3. Contains the Auditor's opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District as of September 30, 2024; and
4. Contains no findings.

On April 8, 2025, Brad Hough, from Powell and Jones, CPAs, presented the report to the Audit Committee and the committee voted to accept the report.

To view a copy of the audit, visit the District's website or click here:

<https://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/DocumentCenter/View/19388/SRWMD-FY-2023-2024-Financial-Audit-Report>

PS/tm

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: Revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Audit Committee recommendation to accept the revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan for Law, Redd, Crona & Munroe, P.A.

BACKGROUND

Law, Redd, Crona & Munroe, P.A. (Law Redd) submitted a revised Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan removing the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) follow-up activity. The OPPAGA audit has not been completed as of this month. As such, the Inspector General's follow-up review will need to be moved to the next fiscal year. The revised work plan includes the audit of Revenue and Receipts that was scheduled for 2027 on the approved three-year internal audit plan. The Revenue and Receipts audit will begin this fiscal year and be completed in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Timber revenue risk analysis will be the focus of this year's audit activity.

On April 8, 2025, the Audit Committee accepted the revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan.

Law Redd will submit a new three-year internal audit program to the Audit Committee at the August 12, 2025, meeting to incorporate the shifting of activities between fiscal years.

PS/tm
Attachment

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2025 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – PROPOSED REVISIONS APRIL 2025**

Audit Area	Work Plan	Planned Start Date	Estimated Hours
Land Acquisition and Management	<p>Review the District’s policies, procedures, and controls for ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land is acquired in an economic manner and in compliance with State laws, regulations, and funding requirements.; – District-owned land is managed in compliance with State laws, regulations, and funding requirements, and; – Land is identified for disposition for justified reasons and disposed of an economic manner and in compliance with State laws and regulations. 	February 2025	60
Follow-up on Prior Internal Audit Findings	<p>Review the status of District corrective action toward the observations and recommendations in prior internal audit reports that are unresolved through September 30, 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The scope of this follow-up audit will include the observations and recommendations from our internal audit of Cybersecurity, Report #24-01, dated May 29, 2024. 	April 2025	20
Revenue and Receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review selected District internal controls for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of recorded revenues. – On a sample basis, test the District’s reconciliation of payments collected to documentation of the related revenue-generating activity and to receipts posted to the general ledger. <p><u>Note:</u> we have selected Timber Sales as the revenue-generating activity to be included in the scope of this audit.</p>	September 2025 Estimated Completion Date: November 30, 2025	20
Discretionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reserved for procedures to be performed at the discretion of the Inspector General without the prior knowledge of management. – Perform additional procedures as deemed necessary as a result of other procedures performed or at the request of the Governing Board, management, and/or external auditor. 	October 2024 – September 2025	15
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preparation of Internal Audit Reports – Presentation of Draft Reports to District CFO – Presentation of Final Audit Reports to Audit Committee – Presentation of Annual Report of IG Activities to Audit Committee 	October 2024 - September 2025	30
Risk Assessment and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discussions with District CFO and other management as necessary – Other risk assessment procedures – Identify areas of concern – Design of specific audit procedures – Presentation of audit plans to Governing Board’s Audit Committee 	Summer 2025	20

Total Hours	165.00
Estimated Blended Hourly Rate	\$147.75
Subtotal	\$24,378.75
Travel (s. 112.061, F.S.)	\$1,000.00
Estimated Fee	<u>\$25,378.75</u>

Estimated Blended Hourly Rate

	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Per Cent Utilized</u>	<u>Extension</u>
Inspector General	\$220	12%	\$ 26.40
Partner-in-Charge	\$220	8%	17.60
Audit Manager/IT Manager	\$155-165 (blended)	25%	40.00
Senior Auditor	\$125	35%	43.75
Staff Auditor	\$100	20%	<u>20.00</u>
	Blended Rate		<u><u>\$ 147.75</u></u>

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: Payment in Lieu of Taxes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Payment in Lieu of Taxes in the amount of \$362,086.92.

BACKGROUND

In order to offset the effect on the tax rolls of the small counties from public acquisition of land, the Florida Legislature enacted the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program in 1992. Each year, the District works with county commissions and staff to prepare applications for properties purchased or sold during the previous calendar year. The payment for a particular parcel is equal to the average of the actual taxes paid for the three years prior to the District's acquisition of the property. The reimbursement amount is only calculated one time, and that payment is paid for as long as the District owns the property, and as long as the county qualifies for PILT. All counties within the District that have an estimated population of 150,000 or fewer as of April 1 annually qualify for PILT. Population levels shall be determined pursuant to Section 186.901, Florida Statutes.

PILT only applies to fee simple properties owned by the District. Unless otherwise exempted, landowners continue to pay the taxes for lands on which the District holds conservation easements, and the parcels are still reassessed on a regular basis by the property appraiser's office. Once tax information is obtained from the counties, the acquired property information is sent to the Florida Department of Revenue for certification.

For the 2024 tax year, twelve (12) counties applied for PILT for a total of \$362,086.92. The reimbursement amounts for each county are shown in Attachment A. The state appropriated \$352,909 for the District for PILT. The balance will be paid from ad valorem revenues. The District's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget includes \$365,000 for PILT under code 13-6930-6-3100-99.

PS/tm
Attachment

ATTACHMENT A

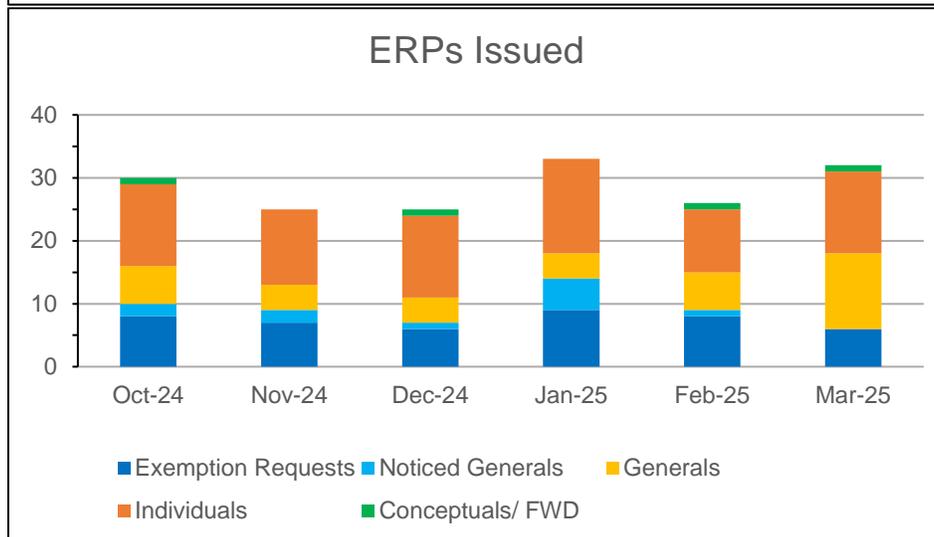
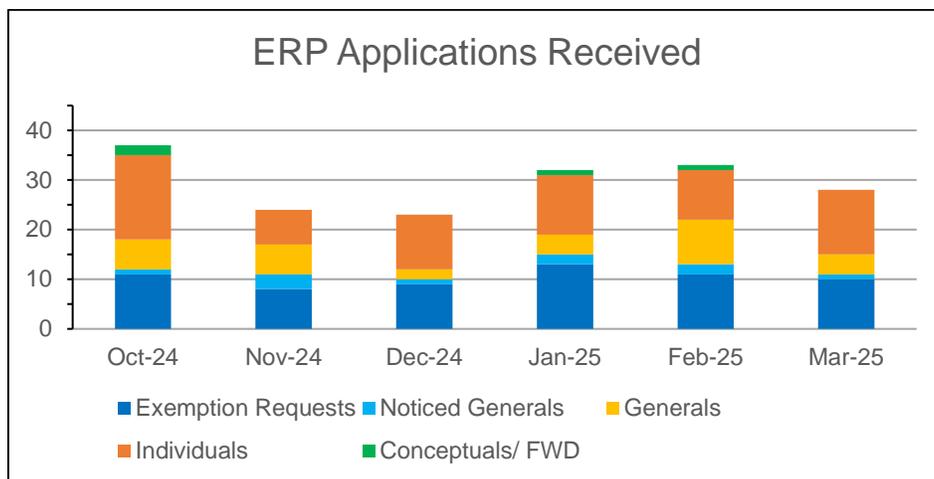
TAX YEAR 2024 SCHEDULE FOR
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR FY 2024-25

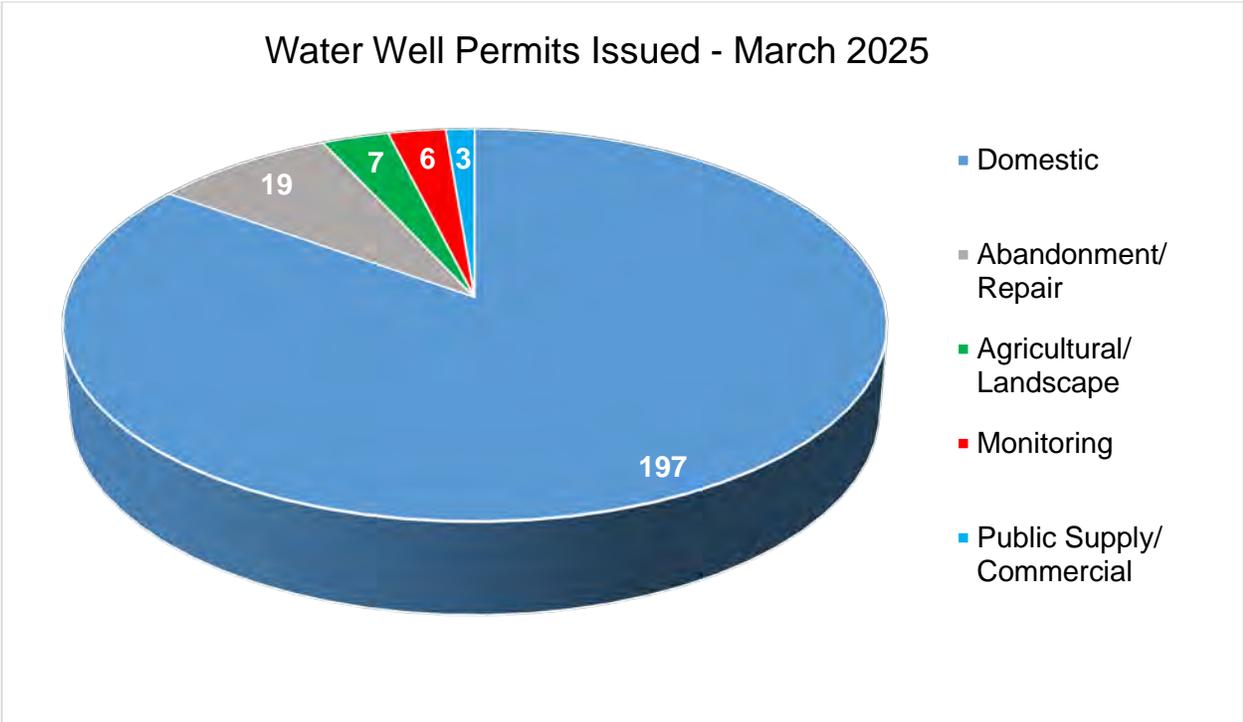
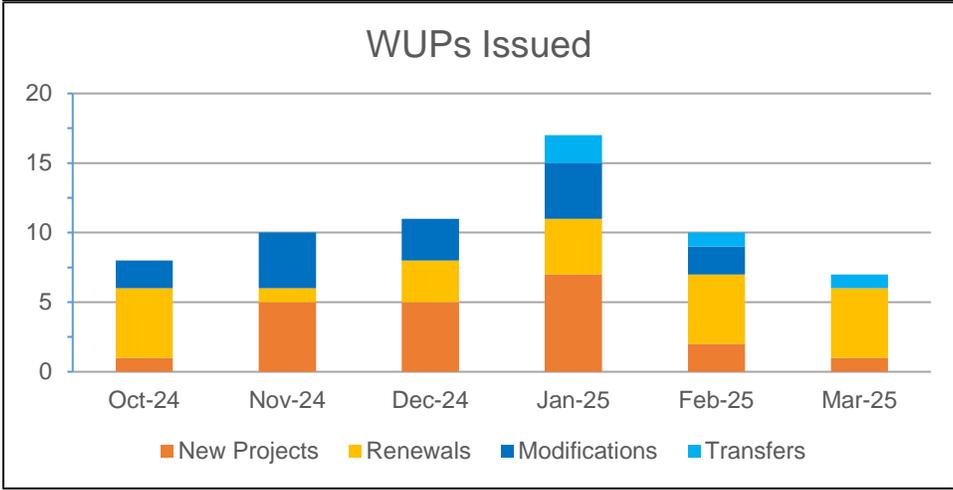
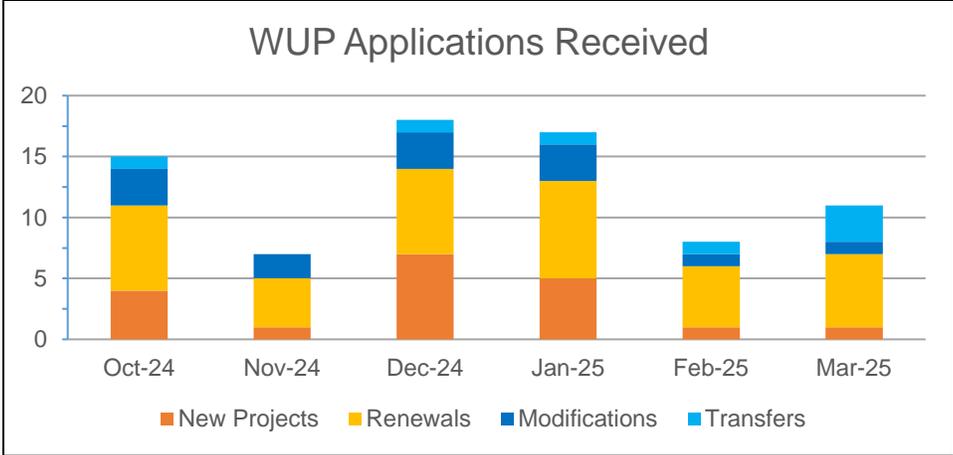
BRADFORD	\$	20,911.70
COLUMBIA	\$	37,269.71
DIXIE	\$	21,119.21
GILCHRIST	\$	58,509.48
HAMILTON	\$	38,125.33
JEFFERSON	\$	9,682.99
LAFAYETTE	\$	80,057.16
LEVY	\$	30,446.85
MADISON	\$	19,875.40
SUWANNEE	\$	28,647.08
TAYLOR	\$	16,609.30
UNION	\$	832.71
TOTAL	\$	<u>362,086.92</u>

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/ Projects Division
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: May 2, 2025
RE: Permitting Summary Report





SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/ Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: Environmental Resource Permit Application ERP-001-242142-3, Tara Phoenicia, Alachua County

RECOMMENDATION

Approve environmental resource permit application number ERP-001-242142-3 with nineteen individual permit general conditions to Tara Forest, LLC, in Alachua County.

BACKGROUND

On January 10, 2023, an environmental resource permit (ERP) was issued to Tara Forest, LLC, for the construction of 4.37 acres of impervious surfaces on a total project area of 44.53 acres; and the construction, operation, and maintenance of a master stormwater management system to serve a total of 26.9 acres of impervious surfaces for a commercial subdivision, known as Tara Phoenicia in Alachua County. On October 24, 2024, a new application from Tara Forest, LLC was proposed to increase the total amount of impervious area served by the stormwater management system to 27.76 acres.

The previous design also included the extension and connection to a roadway through the separately permitted Baywood Centre commercial subdivision. This new permit application proposes to remove that roadway connection. Therefore, the Tara Phoenicia complex and Baywood Centre complexes will have separate entrances.

Additionally, the previous stormwater management system design utilized the eight, 100-year design storm events up to the 100-year, 240-hour storm, as was previously required. This application proposes to redesign the system to the 100-year, 24-hour storm event pursuant to rule amendments made to ERP Applicant's Handbook Volume II, Section 3.2 that were previously approved by the Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board on February 14, 2023.

The project has been reviewed and meets the conditions for issuance found in 62-330.301, Florida Administrative Code. Additionally, the design meets the criteria required in Applicant's Handbook Volumes I and II.

SF/tm
Attachment

INDIVIDUAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMIT TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT
 11-Apr-2025
 APPLICATION #: ERP-001-242142-3

Applicant: Sayed Moukhtara
 Tara Forest, LLC
 3911 NW 26th Ter
 Gainesville, FL 32605-2126

Owner: Sayed Moukhtara
 Tara Forest LLC
 3911 NW 26th Ter
 Gainesville, FL 32605-2126
 (352) 278-5317

Consultant: Kyle Willems
 JBPro
 3530 Nw 43rd St
 Gainesville, FL 32606-6104
 (352) 375-8999

Project Name: Tara Phoenicia
Acres Owned: 467.8
Project Acreage: 26.0
County: Alachua

STR:

Section(s):	Township(s):	Range(s):
10	8S	18E

Receiving Water Body:

Name	Class
Cellon Creek	III Fresh
Mill Creek	III Fresh, IW

Authority: 62-330.020 (2)(j)
 Tree Plantations(4400), Coniferous Plantations(4410), Mixed Wetland
Existing Land Use: Hardwoods(6170), Wetlands(6000), Wetland Hardwood Forests(6100),
 Upland Forests(4000)
Mitigation Drainage Basin: Santa Fe River Basin
Special Regulatory Basin: Stream to Sink
Final O&M Entity: Tara Forest, LLC
ERP Conservation Easements/Restrictions No
 :
Interested Parties: No
Objectors: Yes

Authorization Statement:

This permit authorizes the construction of 4.1 acres of impervious surfaces on a project area of 26 acres and the construction, operation, and maintenance of a stormwater management system to serve a total of

27.76 acres of impervious area on a total project area of 39.9 acres. The project shall be constructed, in a manner consistent with the application package, plans, and calculations submitted by Kyle Willems, P.E., JBPro on or before April 9, 2025.

Recommendation: Approval

Reviewers: Sara Zybell Ferson; Cassandra Bonds

Staff Comments

Project Applicant and Sufficient Real Property Interest:

Sayed Moukhtara is an authorized agent for the land owner, Tara Forest, LLC and has authorized JBrown Professional Group to be an agent for this permit application.

Project Location and Brief Description:

This project proposes the construction of a commercial subdivision consisting of roadway, utility, and stormwater infrastructure within Section 10, Township 8 South, and Range 18 East of Alachua County.

Permitting History:

ERP-001-242142-1: ERP Individual; Withdrawn

ERP-001-242142-2: ERP Individual; Will be closed upon issuance of this sequence.

Financial Assurance Mechanism:

The major modification fee of \$1,055 has been provided in accordance with rule 40B-1.706, F.A.C. A surety bond of \$4,000 has been provided in accordance with rule 40B-1.704, F.A.C.

Engineering

Description of Project (Stormwater Management System):

Two post-development drainage areas (Post DA-1 and Post DA-2) and two stormwater basins are proposed (TPR Basin 1 and TPH Basin 2). TPH Basin 1 collects runoff from TPH Post DA-1, and TPH Basin 2 collects runoff from TPH Post DA-2. TPH Basin 1 discharges to TPH Basin 2, which discharges offsite to the west.

Water Quality:

The project is located in a stream-to-sink basin. The proposed stormwater management system will provide water quality treatment for the runoff from the first two inches of rainfall as set forth in Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) Applicant's Handbook (AH) Vol. II, Section 4.3. The design engineer has demonstrated that the water quality treatment volume will be recovered within 72 hours, as set forth in ERP AH Vol. II, Section 4.4.

Flood Protection:

The design engineer has certified that post-development discharge rates and volumes will not exceed pre-development discharge rates and volumes for the 100-year design storms as set forth in ERP AH Vol. II Section 3.3. The design engineer has also certified that the stormwater management system recovers one-half of the total water quantity volume within seven days following the end of each design storm event and the full volume within 30 days following the design storm events as set forth in ERP AH Vol. II, Section 3.4. The design engineer provided at least one foot of freeboard between the maximum stage and the top of pond elevation as set forth in ERP AH Vol. II, Section 5.1.2.

The proposed development is located within flood zone A. The Mill Creek Sink Hydrologic Model (permitted under ERP-001-237887-1) was used to determine the 100-year base flood elevation of 52 feet. The total floodplain compensation required for the Tara Phoenicia development is 391,349 CF (8.98ac-ft). The compensation will be provided as a part of the Tara April project (ERP-001-241954-1), which is also located within this floodplain. The Tara Phoenicia project will be providing a total of 19.5 AC-FT of floodplain compensation volume at the 52 foot elevation. After the Tara Phoenicia project is complete, this basin will still have an additional 10.52 AC-FT of compensation storage for future development.

Operation and Maintenance:

Tara Forest, LLC. will be the operation and maintenance entity. An operation and maintenance plan was provided in accordance with ERP Applicant's Handbook Volume I, Section 12.4.

Environmental

Site Description:

The site is clear-cut in part and forested in part. The clear-cut area is dominated by ruderal vegetation with a high density of young black cherry and sweetgum (FLUCC 3290). The forested area is rich, mesic woods adjacent to Mill Creek Sink and dominated by laurel oak, sweetgum, loblolly pine, hickory (FLUCC 4200). The understory/shrub layer is sparse with occasional young hickories, sweetgum, wax myrtle, and Ardisia. Soils are yellowish brown and sandy. Wetlands are located on adjacent parcels, but not within the subject parcel.

Impacts:

No impacts to wetlands or other surface waters are proposed or anticipated.

Secondary impacts:

Not applicable.

Elimination/Reduction of Impacts:

Not applicable.

Mitigation:

No mitigation is required.

Cumulative Impacts:

None

Conclusion:

The applicant has provided reasonable assurance that the proposed project meets the conditions for issuance of permits specified in rules 62-330.301 and 62-330.302, F.A.C.

Conditions

1. All activities shall be implemented following the plans, specifications and performance criteria approved by this permit. Any deviations must be authorized in a permit modification in accordance with rule 62-330.315, F.A.C. Any deviations that are not so authorized may subject the permittee to enforcement action and revocation of the permit under chapter 373, F.S.
2. A complete copy of this permit shall be kept at the work site of the permitted activity during the construction phase, and shall be available for review at the work site upon request by the District staff. The permittee shall require the contractor to review the complete permit prior to beginning construction.
3. Activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards. Performance-based erosion and sediment control best management practices shall be installed immediately prior to, and be maintained during and after construction as needed, to prevent adverse impacts to the water resources and adjacent lands. Such practices shall be in accordance with the State of Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Department of Transportation June 2007), and the Florida Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Nonpoint Source Management Section, Tallahassee, Florida, July 2008), which are both incorporated by reference in paragraph 62-330.050(9)(b)5., F.A.C., unless a project-specific erosion and sediment control plan is approved or other water quality control measures are required as part of the permit.
4. At least 48 hours prior to beginning the authorized activities, the permittee shall submit to the Agency a fully executed Form 62-330.350(1), "Construction Commencement Notice," (October 1, 2013), (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-02505>), incorporated by reference herein, indicating the expected start and completion dates. A copy of this form may be obtained from the Agency, as described in subsection 62-330.010(5), F.A.C., and shall be submitted electronically or by mail to the

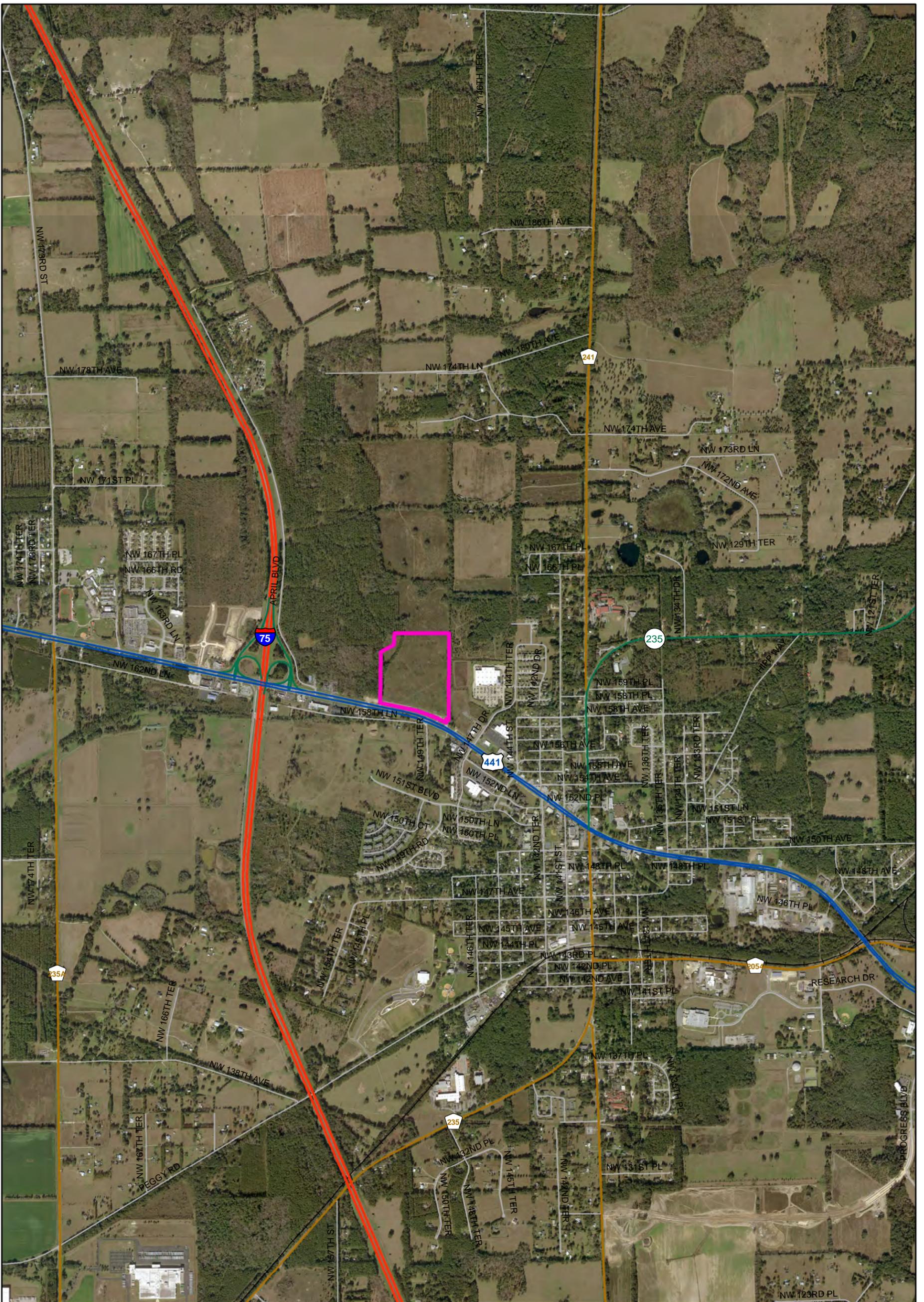
Agency. However, for activities involving more than one acre of construction that also require a NPDES stormwater construction general permit, submittal of the Notice of Intent to Use Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Large and Small Construction Activities, DEP Form 62-621.300(4)(b), shall also serve as notice of commencement of construction under this chapter and, in such a case, submittal of Form 62-330.350(1) is not required.

5. Unless the permit is transferred under rule 62-330.340, F.A.C., or transferred to an operating entity under rule 62-330.310, F.A.C., the permittee is liable to comply with the plans, terms and conditions of the permit for the life of the project or activity.
6. Within 30 days after completing construction of the entire project, or any independent portion of the project, the permittee shall provide the following to the Agency, as applicable:
 1. For an individual, private single-family residential dwelling unit, duplex, triplex, or quadruplex — “Construction Completion and Inspection Certification for Activities Associated With a Private Single-Family Dwelling Unit” [Form 62-330.310(3)]; or
 2. For all other activities — “As-Built Certification and Request for Conversion to Operational Phase” [Form 62-330.310(1)].
 3. If available, an Agency website that fulfills this certification requirement may be used in lieu of the form.
7. If the final operation and maintenance entity is a third party:
 1. Prior to sales of any lot or unit served by the activity and within one year of permit issuance, or within 30 days of as-built certification, whichever comes first, the permittee shall submit, as applicable, a copy of the operation and maintenance documents (see sections 12.3 thru 12.3.3 of Volume I) as filed with the Department of State, Division of Corporations and a copy of any easement, plat, or deed restriction needed to operate or maintain the project, as recorded with the Clerk of the Court in the County in which the activity is located.
 2. Within 30 days of submittal of the as- built certification, the permittee shall submit “Request for Transfer of Environmental Resource Permit to the Perpetual Operation Entity” [Form 62-330.310(2)] to transfer the permit to the operation and maintenance entity, along with the documentation requested in the form. If available, an Agency website that fulfills this transfer requirement may be used in lieu of the form.

8. The permittee shall notify the District in writing of changes required by any other regulatory District that require changes to the permitted activity, and any required modification of this permit must be obtained prior to implementing the changes.
9. This permit does not:
 1. Convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges, or any other rights or privileges other than those specified herein or in chapter 62-330, F.A.C.;
 2. Convey to the permittee or create in the permittee any interest in real property;
 3. Relieve the permittee from the need to obtain and comply with any other required federal, state, and local authorization, law, rule, or ordinance; or
 4. Authorize any entrance upon or work on property that is not owned, held in easement, or controlled by the permittee.
10. Prior to conducting any activities on state-owned submerged lands or other lands of the state, title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the permittee must receive all necessary approvals and authorizations under chapters 253 and 258, F.S. Written authorization that requires formal execution by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund shall not be considered received until it has been fully executed.
11. The permittee shall hold and save the District harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities that may arise by reason of the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, abandonment or use of any project authorized by the permit.
12. The permittee shall notify the District in writing:
 1. Immediately if any previously submitted information is discovered to be inaccurate; and
 2. Within 30 days of any conveyance or division of ownership or control of the property or the system, other than conveyance via a long-term lease, and the new owner shall request transfer of the permit in accordance with rule 62-330.340, F.A.C. This does not apply to the sale of lots or units in residential or commercial subdivisions or condominiums where the stormwater management system has been completed and converted to the operation phase.

13. Upon reasonable notice to the permittee, District staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, sample and test the project or activities to ensure conformity with the plans and specifications authorized in the permit.
14. If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, stone tools, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The permittee or other designee shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section (DHR), at (850)245-6333, as well as the appropriate permitting agency office. Project activities shall not resume without verbal or written authorization from the Division of Historical Resources. If unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with section 872.05, F.S. For project activities subject to prior consultation with the DHR and as an alternative to the above requirements, the permittee may follow procedures for unanticipated discoveries as set forth within a cultural resources assessment survey determined complete and sufficient by DHR and included as a specific permit condition herein.
15. Any delineation of the extent of a wetland or other surface water submitted as part of the permit application, including plans or other supporting documentation, shall not be considered binding unless a specific condition of this permit or a formal determination under rule 62-330.201, F.A.C., provides otherwise.
16. The permittee shall provide routine maintenance of all components of the stormwater management system to remove trapped sediments and debris. Removed materials shall be disposed of in a landfill or other uplands in a manner that does not require a permit under chapter 62-330, F.A.C., or cause violations of state water quality standards.
17. This permit is issued based on the applicant's submitted information that reasonably demonstrates that adverse water resource-related impacts will not be caused by the completed permit activity. If any adverse impacts result, the District will require the permittee to eliminate the cause, obtain any necessary permit modification, and take any necessary corrective actions to resolve the adverse impacts.
18. A Recorded Notice of Environmental Resource Permit may be recorded in the county public records in accordance with section 62-330.090(7), F.A.C. Such notice is not an encumbrance upon the property.
19. This permit does not authorize the permittee to cause any adverse impact to or "take" of state listed species and other regulated species of fish and wildlife. Compliance with state laws regulating the take of fish and wildlife is the

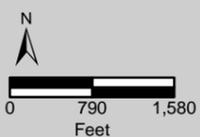
responsibility of the owner or applicant associated with this project. Please refer to Chapter 68A-27 of the Florida Administrative Code for definitions of “take” and a list of fish and wildlife species. If listed species are observed onsite, FWC staff are available to provide decision support information or assist in obtaining the appropriate FWC permits. Most marine endangered and threatened species are statutorily protected and a “take” permit cannot be issued. Requests for further information or review can be sent to FWCConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com.



 Tara Phoenicia

Tara Phoenicia

ERP-001-242142-3
May 2025



Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001.
Map Created on 4/8/2025

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: May 2, 2025
RE: Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

Attached for your information is the Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report.

LMII/tm
Attachment

Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

Period ending March 31, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	23	\$ 18,764,592
Completed within the last 6 months	33	\$ 9,866,436
Totals	56	\$ 28,631,028

AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	142	\$ 9,821,753
Completed within the last 6 months	20	\$ 858,287
Totals	162	\$ 10,680,041

FLOOD RISK OUTREACH AND MAPPING PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Number of Contracts (TWAs)	21	\$ 11,113,822
Completed within the last 6 months	0	\$ -
Totals	21	\$ 11,113,822
TOTAL CONTRACTS / TWAs	239	\$ 50,424,891

AEP APPLICATIONS	
	Number of Projects
Agriculture Applications under review	73
AWS and Springs	12
Conceptual Projects under review	15
Projects in Queue	3
TOTAL	103

AEP FUNDING SOURCES		
	Number of Grants	Grant amount provided
District	3	\$ 10,461,592
FDEP	36	\$ 58,683,926
Federal through FDEP	5	\$ 14,600,000
Federal (CTP Program)	7	\$ 11,359,417
Cooperator Match	-	\$ 12,666,986
TOTAL	51	\$ 107,771,921

FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CTP	Cooperating Technical Partner (FEMA)
AEP	Agriculture and Environmental Projects
TWA	Task Work Order
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management /Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: Alternative Water Supply Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit all Alternative Water Supply Funding project applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

BACKGROUND:

In June of 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issued a memorandum formalizing the project selection process for Alternative Water Supply (AWS) funding. Subsequently, the District conducted a transparent and public process to select Fiscal Year 2025-2026 AWS project proposals based on that guidance. The solicitation process consisted of outreach through emails and posting funding information to the District website. Staff also offered one-on-one project feedback prior to submission.

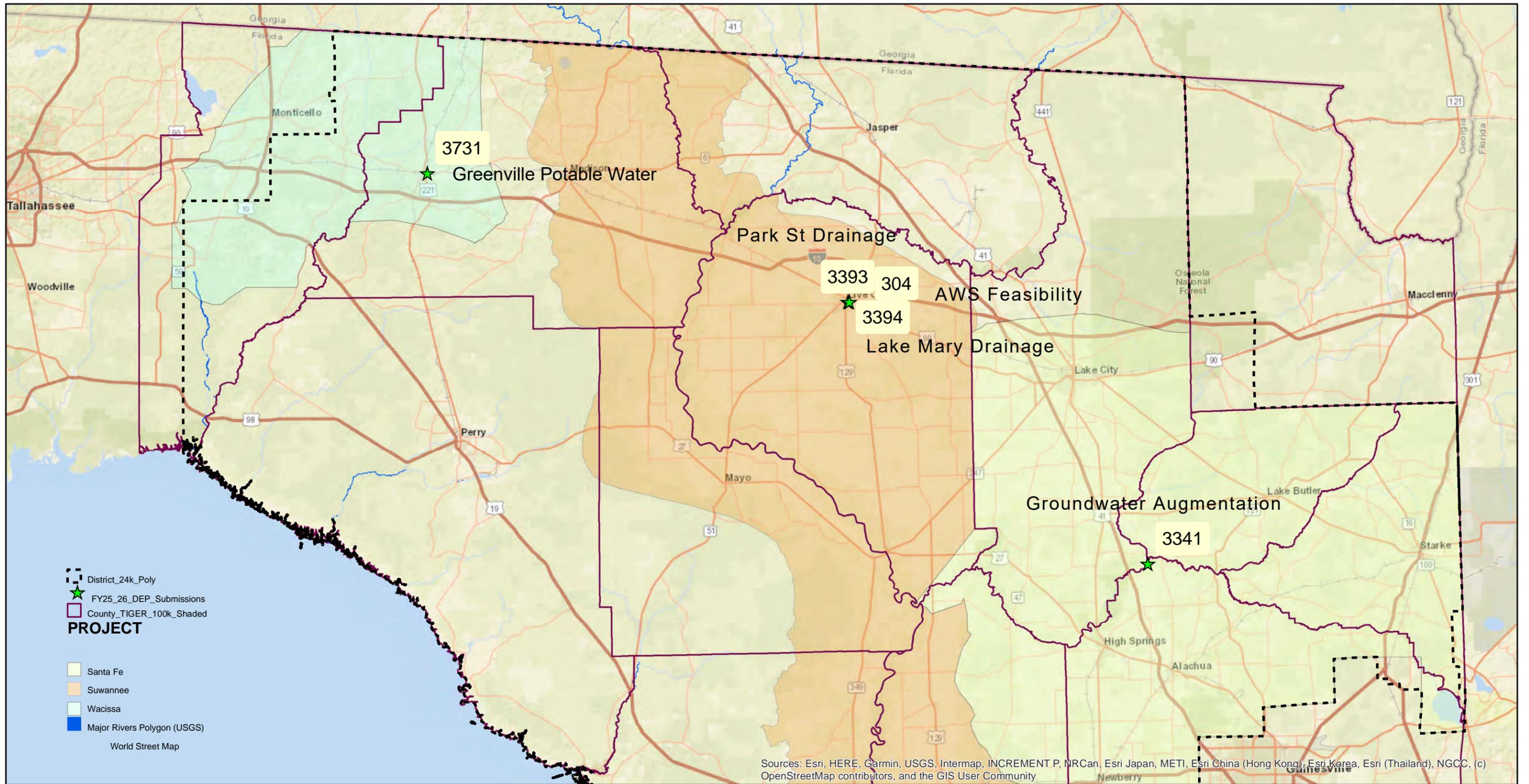
The District received four external and two District project applications which have been posted on the District website. One project was withdrawn by the applicant. Five projects totaling \$8,728,242 will be submitted to FDEP for consideration. The recommended projects consist of two District projects and three local government projects.

Staff project recommendations are consistent with the FDEP guidance on AWS funding. The FDEP AWS project submittal spreadsheet and a map showing the project locations are attached.

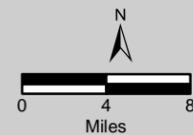
WM/tm
Attachments

**Suwannee River Water Management District
FY2025-26 Alternative Water Supply Project Requests to DEP**

R A N K	Project Name Project ID County	Project Type	Project description	Primary MFL Benefitted	Water Made Available at completion (MGD)	BMAP	TP Reduced (lbs/yr)	TN Reduced (lbs/yr)	State Funding Requested	Anticipated Start Date and End Date	Additional Information
1	AWS Feasibility studies Phase 2 Project ID 304 District-wide	Data Collection and Evaluation	Investigate water available during high flow events and alternative sources to provide recharge and/or storage options to support MFLs in the District. Includes but not limited to preliminary designs to support projects with a focus on the SR NFRWSP area.	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee	3	Santa Fe, Suwannee			\$1,500,000.00	2/1/2026 12/31/2028	This project provides the groundwork information to determine the available take and benefits to the UFA and the preliminary costs to evaluate site suitability for project implementation.
2	Groundwater Augmentation through surface features Ph 2 Project ID 3341 District-wide	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system)	This project implements the FY2024-25 program grant WS118 "Groundwater Augmentation through surface features" to provide recharge through surface features to support MFLs. This includes but is not limited to debris removal from karst features, enhanced capacity of surface water features, and management of stormwater and other high flow events with focus on the SR NFRWSP area.	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	1	Santa Fe, Suwannee			\$500,000.00	2/1/2026 12/31/2028	This project focuses on existing sinkhole locations to evaluate cost estimates and implement project sites improvements for MFL benefits.
3	Lake Mary Drainage Improvements Project ID 3394 Suwannee	Stormwater	This project involves the replacement of two (2) Class V injection wells (8-inch and 12-inch) within the City of Live Oak and the installation of sediment/trash screening prior to discharge to the drainage well. 49 Ac contributing basin. MGD benefit to be verified after construction. Project is located in the SR NFRWSP area.	Lower Suwannee River	0.5	Suwannee		50	\$918,115.00	1/1/2026 9/30/2030	This project reduces flooding impacts in the Lake Mary area of Live Oak, reduces nutrients and provides beneficial recharge.
4	Park Street Drainage Well Replacement Project ID 3393 Suwannee	Stormwater	This project involves the replacement of a 6-inch Class V injection well within the City of Live Oak and the construction of a stormwater management facility to provide water quality treatment and sediment/trash screening prior to discharge to the drainage well. MGD to be verified post construction. Project is located in the SR NFRWSP area.	Lower Suwannee River	0.5	Suwannee	7.3	50	\$507,195.00	3/30/2026 9/30/2027	This project reduces flooding impacts within a 14.2 Ac basin in the Park Street area of Live Oak, reduces nutrients and provides beneficial recharge. Flood elevation reduction of 0.65 ft.
5	Potable Water Distribution System Improvements - Town of Greenville Project ID 3731 Madison	Water Resource Management Programs	Replace over 15,600 LF of aging 6 inch water main and 17 fire hydrants near the Town's commercial core to reduce unaccounted water loss. Project is located in the WWSP area.		0.006				\$5,302,932.00	3/10/2026 7/31/2027	This is a REDI community in a RAO per FDEO and need assistance with improvements to their water system



FY2025-26 Alternative Water Supply Applications



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SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management /Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: Springs Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit all Springs Funding project applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

BACKGROUND:

In March of 2019, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) issued a memorandum formalizing the project selection process for Springs Funding. Subsequently, the District conducted a transparent and public process to select Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Springs project proposals. The solicitation process consisted of outreach through emails and posting funding information to the District website. Staff also offered one-on-one project feedback prior to submission.

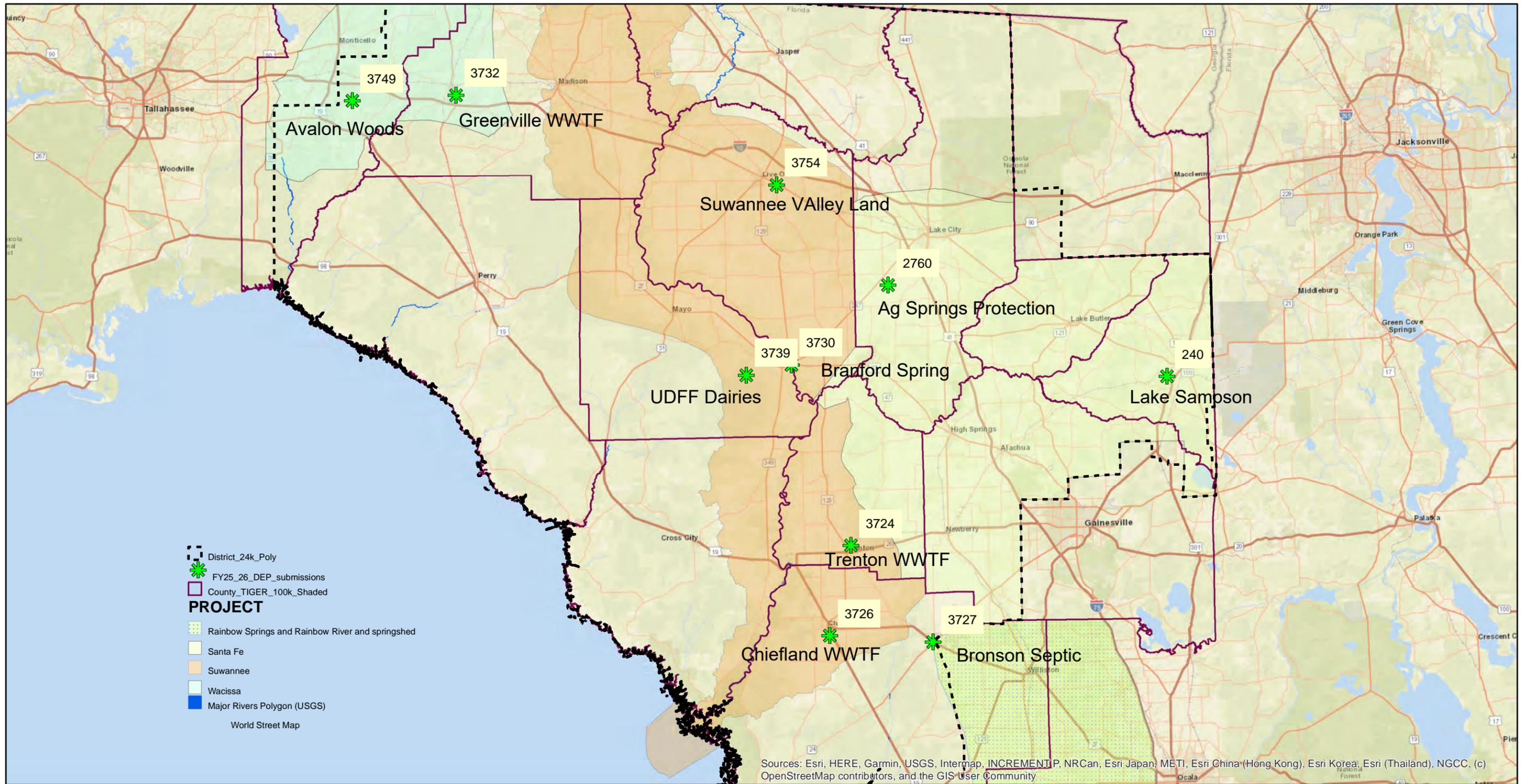
The District reviewed seven external and three District applications which have been posted on the District website and will be submitted to FDEP for consideration. Staff recommends eight of the projects totaling \$114,762,000. The recommended projects consist of three District projects, three local government projects, and two non-profit organizations. The remaining two are being submitted but are not recommended.

Staff project recommendations are consistent with the FDEP guidance on Springs Funding. The FDEP Springs project submittal spreadsheet and a map showing the project locations are attached.

WM/tm
Attachments

SRWMD FY 2025-2026 Proposed Springs Restoration Funding Requests to DEP

Rank	Project Name	Local Government	Spring Name	County	Project description	N Reduced (lbs/yr)	Septics removed	Quantity of Water Made Available (MGD)	Acres to be Acquired	State Funding Requested	Local Contribution	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated End Date	Is this a multi-year project?
1	Suwannee Valley Land Acquisitions for Resource Recovery and Conservation	SRWMD	Wacissa, Suwannee, Santa Fe	District-wide	Fee and/or less-than-fee acquisition of lands for the purposes of water resource and water supply development projects (WRD/WS), conservation projects, and management. Project supports LSF1 recovery, BMAPs recovery, resource protection, & improved mgmt.			31	8541	\$20,640,000.00		2/1/2026	12/31/2028	Yes
2	Agricultural Springs Protection Ph 2	SRWMD	Ichetucknee Springs	District-wide	District wide cost-share to reduce nutrient load and water usage with priority given to projects within a BMAP and / or a WRCA.	388102		4		\$15,000,000.00	\$3,750,000	1/1/2026	9/30/2030	Yes
3	Lake Sampson drainage well water quality Improvement	SRWMD	Santa Fe springs	Bradford	Stormwater treatment system to reduce nutrients and other contaminants prior to entering the replacement drainage well for Lake Sampson.			1		\$3,000,000.00		3/30/2026	9/30/2027	No
4	Sustainable Suwannee Cooperative Agricultural Regional Water Quality Initiative Dairy Farmer Edition	United Dairy Farmers of Florida	Troy Peacock Lafayette Blue Falmouth	Districtwide	Continuation of grant LPS0082 for the design and implementation of Dairy Sustainability plans Districtwide to reduce impacts from nutrients and groundwater pumping in the SRWMD. Three to five dairies will be able to implement improvement plans.	2775		0.13		\$5,000,000.00	\$1,250,000	1/15/2026	12/31/2027	No
5	Avalon Woodland Ravines Conservation Easement	Tall Timbers Research, Inc.	Wacissa River and Wacissa Springs Group	Jefferson	Purchase of a conservation easement on +/- 5,495-acre property in Jefferson County within the Wacissa River and Wacissa Springs Group BMAP and the Wacissa Springs Group PFA. The project will reduce 1,912 lbs. of N/year from potential septic systems.	1912			5495	\$1,580,000.00	\$4,869,785	2/3/2026	3/31/2026	No
6	Septic Tank Phase Out Project, Phase 3	Bronson, Town of	Blue Spring (WBID 3703B); WBID 3747; WBID 3699	Levy	The project will extend the Town's sewer system, removing 270 septic systems and converting them to central sewer. This will reduce 1,611 lbs./yr. of TN in the Silver River, Upper Silver River/Rainbow Spring Group, and Rainbow River BMAP. Bronson is part of a regionalization effort with W3C.	1611	270			\$18,862,300.00		1/1/2026	7/1/2030	Yes
7	AWT WWTF Improvements	Trenton, City of	Fanning Manatee	Gilchrist	WWTF will be expanded to 0.25 MGD & upgraded to AWT to reduce approx. 4,836 lb./yr of TN in the Suwannee River BMAP/Fanning Manatee PFA. AWT capabilities will provide highly treated effluent to the sprayfield for further treatment before recharging the aquifer. Trenton has expressed interest in joining a regionalization effort in the future.	4836				\$16,248,700.00		1/1/2026	6/1/2030	Yes
8	AWT WWTF Expansion & Upgrade	Chiefland, City of	Manatee Spring	Levy	Upgrading/expanding the WWTF to AWT to reduce approx. 8,180 lbs./yr TN in Suwannee River BMAP/Fanning Manatee PFA. Improving the sewer system with 23,000 LF 12" FM and new lift station addresses overcapacity in the 8" FM that serves the N and W side of city. Chiefland is not currently part of a regionalization effort.	6490		0.5	20	\$34,431,000.00		1/15/2026	9/30/2030	Yes
Projects below this line are recommended for further development or future funding														
9	Branford Spring Boil Restoration & Bank Stabilization	Branford, Town of	Branford Spring	Suwannee	Project will remove flow obstructions to spring flow within the boil, stabilize banks, and add ADA-accessible stairs/ramps at Branford Spring. Project will restore the spring, improve clean water flow, & create a sustainable community recreational space.					\$2,470,000.00		1/1/2026	8/1/2028	No
10	WWTF Effluent Disposal - Town of Greenville	Greenville, Town of	Wacissa Springs Group	Madison	Town of Greenville requires a preliminary engineering report to address spray field's limited capacity for an expanding WWTF and septic-to-sewer projects. Effluent disposal strategies will prioritize nutrient reduction(682 lbs./year) and aquifer recharge.	0				\$185,000.00		3/10/2026	6/30/2026	No

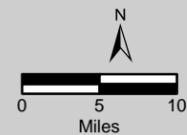


FY2025-26 Springs Projects

for FDEP submission



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Map Created on 4/20/2025



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Troy Roberts, Office Chief, Communications and Outreach
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
DATE: April 10, 2025
RE: Outreach and Communications Activity Summary

The following information summarizes Outreach and Communications activities for the month of March 2025:

Facebook	X	Instagram
Total Posts: 14 Total Views: 210,804 Content Interactions: 1,894	Total Posts: 20 Total Impressions: 1,198	Total Posts: 7 Total Views: 1,788 Total Engagement: 108

Press Releases
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 4 – Governing Board Meeting• March 12 – Hydrologic Conditions Report• March 26 – AWS Project Funding• March 28 – Springs Restoration Funding

Media Inquiries / Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 4 – Troy Roberts worked with FDEP on a response to WUFT request regarding water withdrawals in Georgia.• March 12, 17, 18 – Troy Roberts responded to a request from the Tampa Bay Times regarding the potential land swap of the Ellaville Tract.• March 25 – Troy Roberts responded to a request from the Florida Phoenix regarding the potential land swap of the Ellaville Tract.

Meetings with Vendors / Consultants / Public
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 3 – Troy Roberts met with the Moore Agency to discuss the updated signage work on District lands.• March 4 – Troy Roberts and Strategic Digital Services conducted staff interviews at the District office for upcoming feature story work.• March 14 – Troy Roberts made a presentation to students at the University of Florida regarding District policy and communications efforts.

- March 25 – Troy Roberts made a presentation to the Garden Club of the Trio Counties in Fanning Springs regarding District activities.
- March 26 – Troy Roberts attended the monthly touch-base meeting with FDEP and other water management districts.
- March 31 – Troy Roberts met with Skye Creative to discuss the ongoing Leave No Litter and Permit to Protect campaign work.

February Photo Highlight:

The District's Katie McBride provided this beautiful photo of the Suwannee River, seen here from the springhouse at White Sulfur Springs. The river derives its tannic color from decaying vegetation in the Okefenokee Swamp and maintains a black tint as it flows south.



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director
DATE: April 3, 2025
RE: Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

Attached for your information is the Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report.

KP/ao
Attachment

Surplus									
Tract	Acres	County	Parcel Number(s)	Terms	Status	Acquired Date	Funding	Lands Committee Date	Board Surplus Date
Country Club Road	60.69	Columbia	03-04S-17-07486-001 03-04S-17-07487-000	No Restrictions	Available	07.01.2015	N/A	--	07.09.2019
Three Rivers Estates	1	Columbia	1017000	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	07.09.2019	08.13.2019
Suwannee Run Shores	1.175	Dixie	17-08-14-6877-0000-0100	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Offer received April 2025, Drafting purchase agreement.	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	07.09.2019	08.13.2019
Forest Woodlands	11	Gilchrist	320814008300000370 320814008300000380	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available	10.11.1996	Save Our Rivers	10.11.2019	11.12.2019
Santa Fe Oasis	1	Gilchrist	36-06-15-0086-000F-0080	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available	04.28.1998	Save Our Rivers	09.21.2020	05.12.2020
Turtle Spring Surplus Tract	32	Lafayette	26-07-14-0000-0000-00010 26-07-14-0000-0000-00100 (32-acre portion of)	Subject to conservation.	Available	05.13.2015	Florida Forever	--	03.10.2015
Turkey Island Lot	0.34	Levy	077930010A	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Pending Board approval for surplus on 05.13.2025.	12.10.1997	Save Our Rivers	04.08.2025	--
Falmouth North (8 lots)	6.51	Suwannee	24-01S-11E-10897-030240 24-01S-11E-10897-030310 24-01S-11E-10897-030340 10897020130 10897010010 10897010020 10897010030 10897010040	Subject to conservation.	Available	04.24.1998	WMLTF	--	06.08.2010
Santa Fe Spring	7.37	Suwannee	32-06S-15E-01534-020190 32-06S-15E-01534-020180 32-06S-15E-01534-020160	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available to Adjacent Landowners	07.01.1998	Save Our Rivers	12.10.2024	01.14.2025

Santa Fe Spring	5.91	Suwannee	32-06S-15E-1534-020150 32-06S-15E-1534-020140	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Available	07.01.1998	Save Our Rivers	12.10.2024	01.14.2025
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Intergovernmental Conveyance										
Tract	Acres	County	Parcel Number(s)	Terms	Status	Acquired Date	Funding	Lands Committee Date	Board Surplus Date	Agency
Falmouth Spring Park Suwannee Spring Park Telford Spring Park	9.28 14.34 7.8	Suwannee	32-01S-12E-097640 17-01S-14E-017510 25-04S-11E-120630	Under negotiations.	Land Committee authorized negotiations. Ongoing.	March 1993 August 1992 July 2022	P-2000 Save Our Rivers Springs Funding	04.08.2025	--	Suwannee County
Newberry Wellfield	58.66	Alachua	01874-001-003 01874-001-000 01897-000-000	Subject to a restrictive deed that no well, no septic, and no permanent development be installed.	Deed recorded on April 09, 2025. Project completed and closed.	01.11.2000	P-2000	03.09.2021	04.14.2021	City of Newberry
Country Club Road Lots and Well	20	Columbia	03-04S-17-07486-001 03-04S-17-07487-000	No Restrictions	Under negotiations with Columbia County for conveyance of residential lots, encroachments, and public supply well.	07.01.2015	N/A	--	07.09.2019	Columbia County

Exchange										
Project Name	Acres	County	River Frontage	Floodway	10-year Floodplain	Springs	Springs Buffer	Priority Focus Area	Adjacency	
Ellaville - Riverview Exchange	Exchange a portion of the District's Ellaville Tract for a portion of the Riverview Farms Tract, which has significantly higher water resource value as it relates to the District's mission. The Ellaville Tract was purchased on 12.01.1988 using Water Management Land Trust Funds and is managed as part of the Twin Rivers State Forest with the Florida Forest Service. The exchange will be on an acre-for-acre basis as determined by appraisal values. The Lands Committee authorized negotiations on 03.11.2025.									
Ellaville Tract (Portion of) - Exchange Out	696	Madison	None	None	None	None	Y, Troy Peacock Lafayette Blue Falmouth	N	Y, Ellaville Tract	

Riverview Farms (Portion Of) - Exchange In	548	Madison	1.3 miles	236 acres	434 acres	Y, Stuart Spring	Y, Madison Blue	Y, Madison Blue	Y, Westwood West Tract (North); Withlacoochee Quail Farms (South)
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Acquisition									
Project Name	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Purchase Price	Acquisition Type	Lands Committee Date	Governing Board Date	Acquisition Approval Date	Comments
1. Johnny Taylor	941	Gilchrist	07.2023	\$1,838,475 or \$2,002.70 per acre	Conservation Easement	09.25.23	10.10.23	03.11.2025	Board approved transaction on 03.11.2025. Contract signed. Survey and assessments underway.

Detailed Assessment									
Project Name	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Asking Price	Acquisition Type	Lands Committee Date	Governing Board Date	Comments	
2. Lena Dixon	40	Hamilton	01.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	05.09.23	06.13.23	Offer withdrawn on 03.31.2025 by landowner due to rejection of District offer. Application administratively closed on 04.03.2025.	
3. Williams Family Investments, LLC.	947	Levy	06.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	09.25.23	10.10.23	Project pending funding.	
4. Hodges	753	Levy	03.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	05.09.23	06.13.23	Project pending funding.	
5. Leland Wright	149	Gilchrist	05.2024	Donation	Conservation Easement	07.09.24	08.13.24	Followed-up with landowner on interest in program on 03.28.2025. Resent easement terms for consideration. Awaiting feedback from landowner on desired terms for easement.	

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations
THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director
DATE: April 14, 2025
RE: Declaration of a Surplus Lot within the Turkey Island Tract, Levy County

RECOMMENDATION

Declare as surplus a lot within the Turkey Island Tract consisting of 0.34 acres +/- located in Levy County.

BACKGROUND

In December 2024, the District received a request from an adjacent landowner to surplus a piece of real property owned by the District and located in Levy County known as parcel 077930010A. The parcel is located within the Turkey Island Tract and consists of +/- 0.34 acres. The parcel is isolated from the larger tract, with no adjacency to District lands and is located within a residential neighborhood.

The Turkey Island lot was purchased on December 10, 1997, using Save Our Rivers funds for \$4,250. Due to the natural community type, small acreage, proximity to residential areas, and isolation from other tracts, the parcel is not actively being managed. The parcel was reviewed by Land Acquisition and Surplus Team and formally recommended for surplus on December 12, 2024. Further, in accordance with the procedure, a site visit was performed on February 21, 2025.

If approved by the Board for surplus, an appraisal will be conducted on the parcel to determine the value. If the parcel is valued at less than \$25,000, the District may offer the property to adjacent landowners as authorized in 373.089(8)(a). If the property is valued at greater than \$25,000, the property will be offered to the public. Current procedure requires an appraisal to be provided upon request for the surplus of undeclared lands. However, staff requests the board approve the surplus and authorize sale to the adjacent landowners contingent on the appraised value.

Pursuant to statute, all sales shall be for no less than the appraised value. Sales will also include costs for appraisals, legal, and any other closing costs. The property will be noticed and offered via sealed bid for the land value plus all estimated costs associated with the transaction and require execution of a purchase agreement to receive the bid award. All transactions will be subject to final Board approval.

In accordance with Florida Constitution Article X Section 18 and Section 373.089(6)(a), F.S., the Board may surplus property that is no longer needed for conservation purposes by a 2/3 vote. This surplus will include deed restrictions to prohibit future development of structures, wells, and septic to satisfy the conservation goals of the original acquisition.

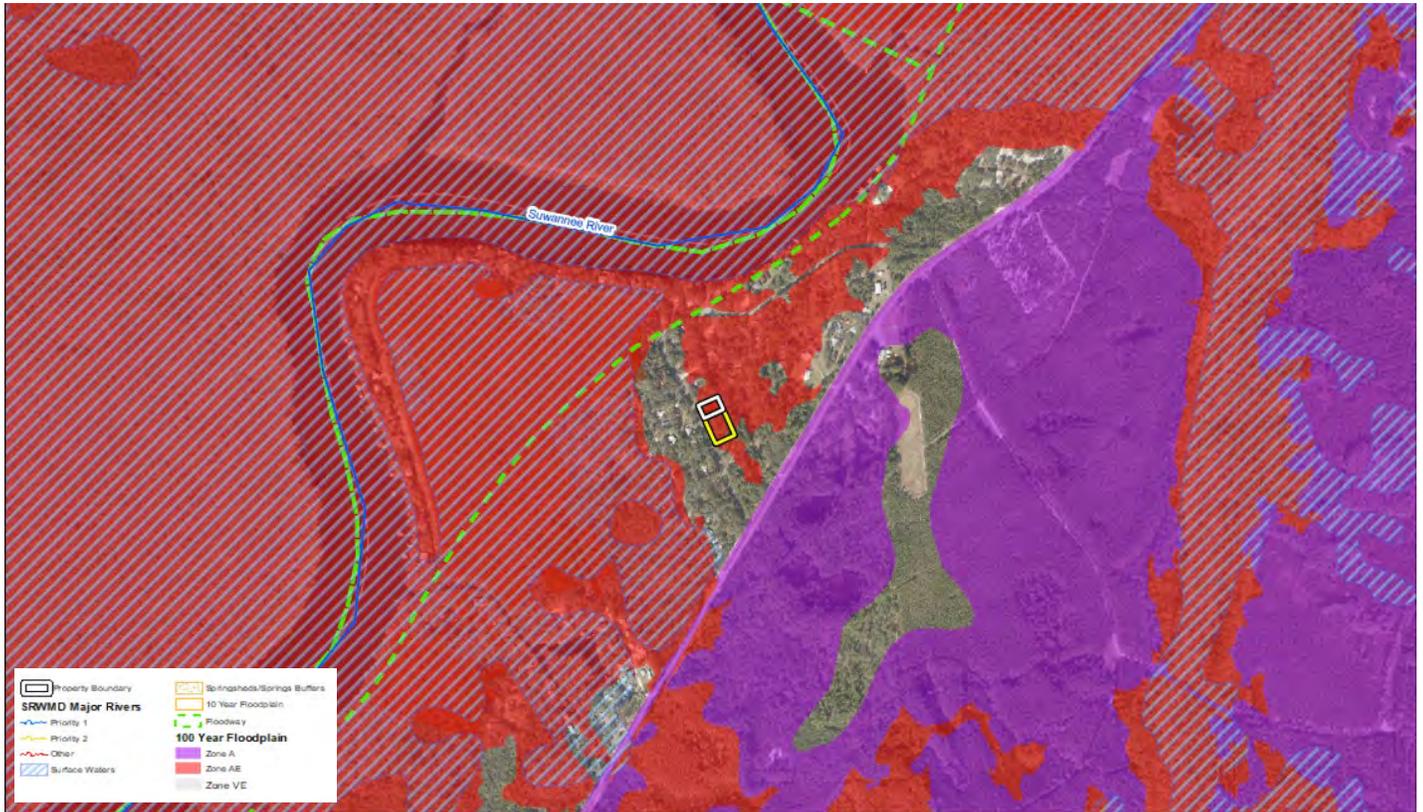
The surplus will be noticed on the District website. Maps of the proposed surplus properties and adjacent properties are attached.

On April 8, 2025, the Lands Committee approved to surplus the Turkey Island Tract.

KCP/ao
Attachments



SUWANNEE TRIAGE ANALYSIS RESULTS



Date: 12/12/24

Property Name: Turkey Island (Barton)

County: Levy

Acreage: ± 0.34

SRWMD Florida Forever: No

Transaction Type: Surplus

Statewide Florida Forever: No

Surface Water Protection

Major River: (N)

Riverine Surface Waters: (N)

Flood Protection

Floodway: (N)

10 Year Floodplain: (N/A)

100 Year Floodplain: (Y) [± 0.34 ac]

Springs Protection

Springshed: (N)

Miscellaneous

PFA: (N)

WSPA: (Y) [Western]

BMAP: (Y) [Suwannee]

CEDAR BRANCH LSNWR

TURKEY ISLAND

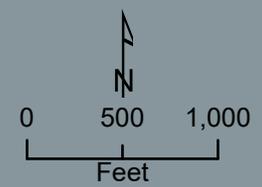
SUWANNEE SWAMP

347

State of Florida, Maxar

Turkey Island (Barton) ± 0.34 Ac Levy County

-  SRWMD Turkey Island
-  Barton Property
-  SRWMD Ownership
-  SRWMD Conservation Easement



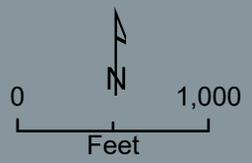
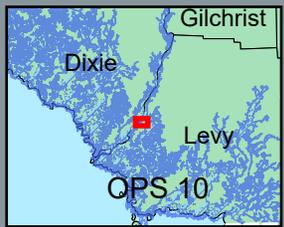
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Suwannee River

-  SRWMD Turkey Island
 -  Barton Property
 -  Surface Waters (Riverine)
- SRWMD Major Rivers
-  Priority 1
 -  Priority 2
 -  Other

Turkey Island (Barton) Property Offer Surface Water Protection

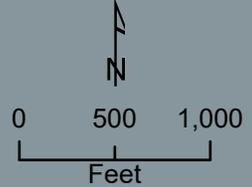


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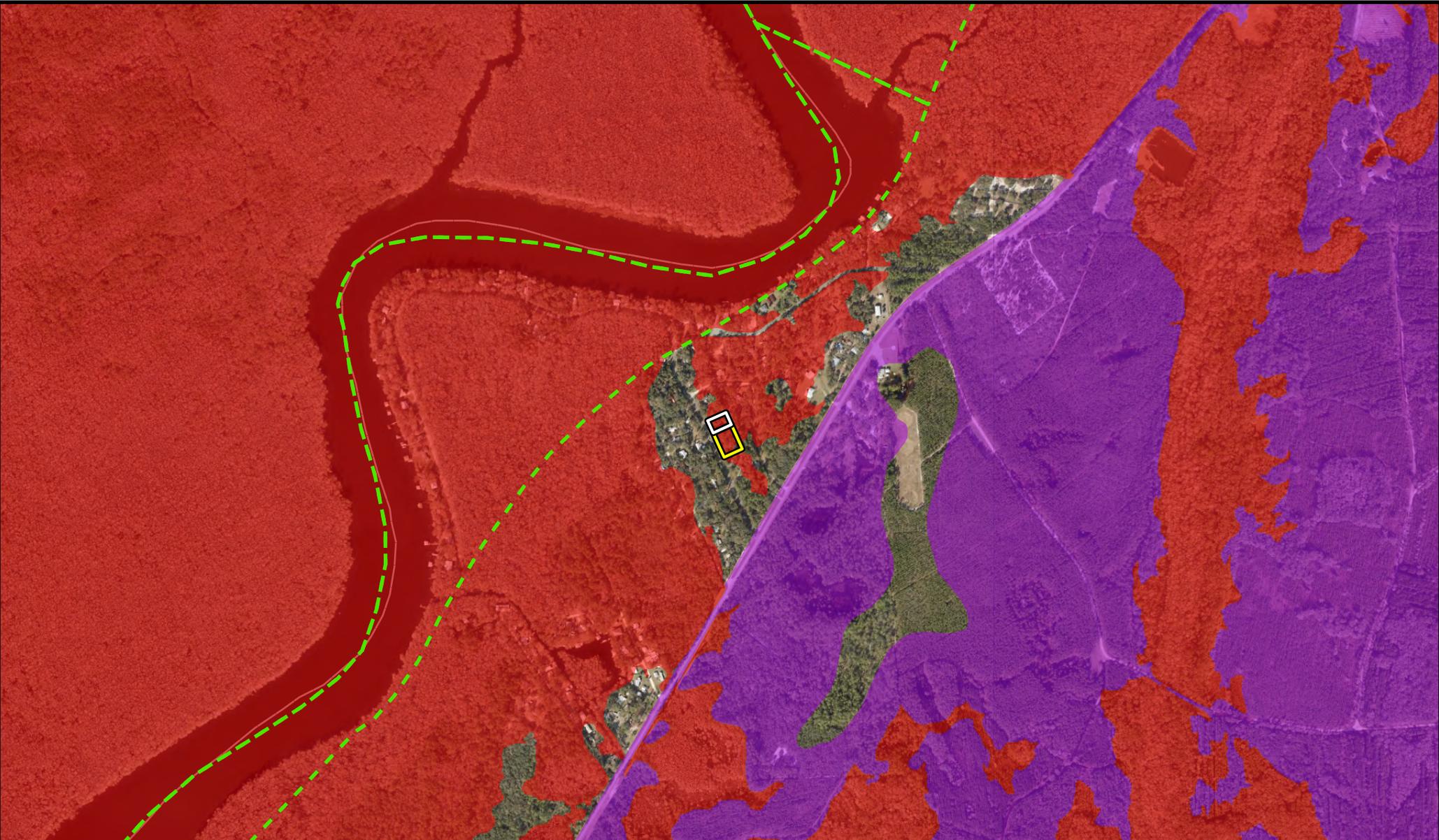


Turkey Island (Barton) Property Offer Springs Protection

-  SRWMD Turkey Island
-  Barton Property
-  Springs Protection
-  Springs

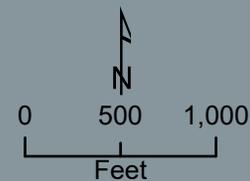
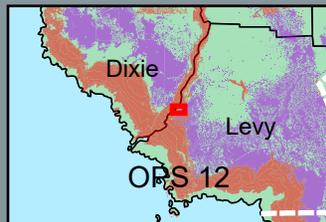


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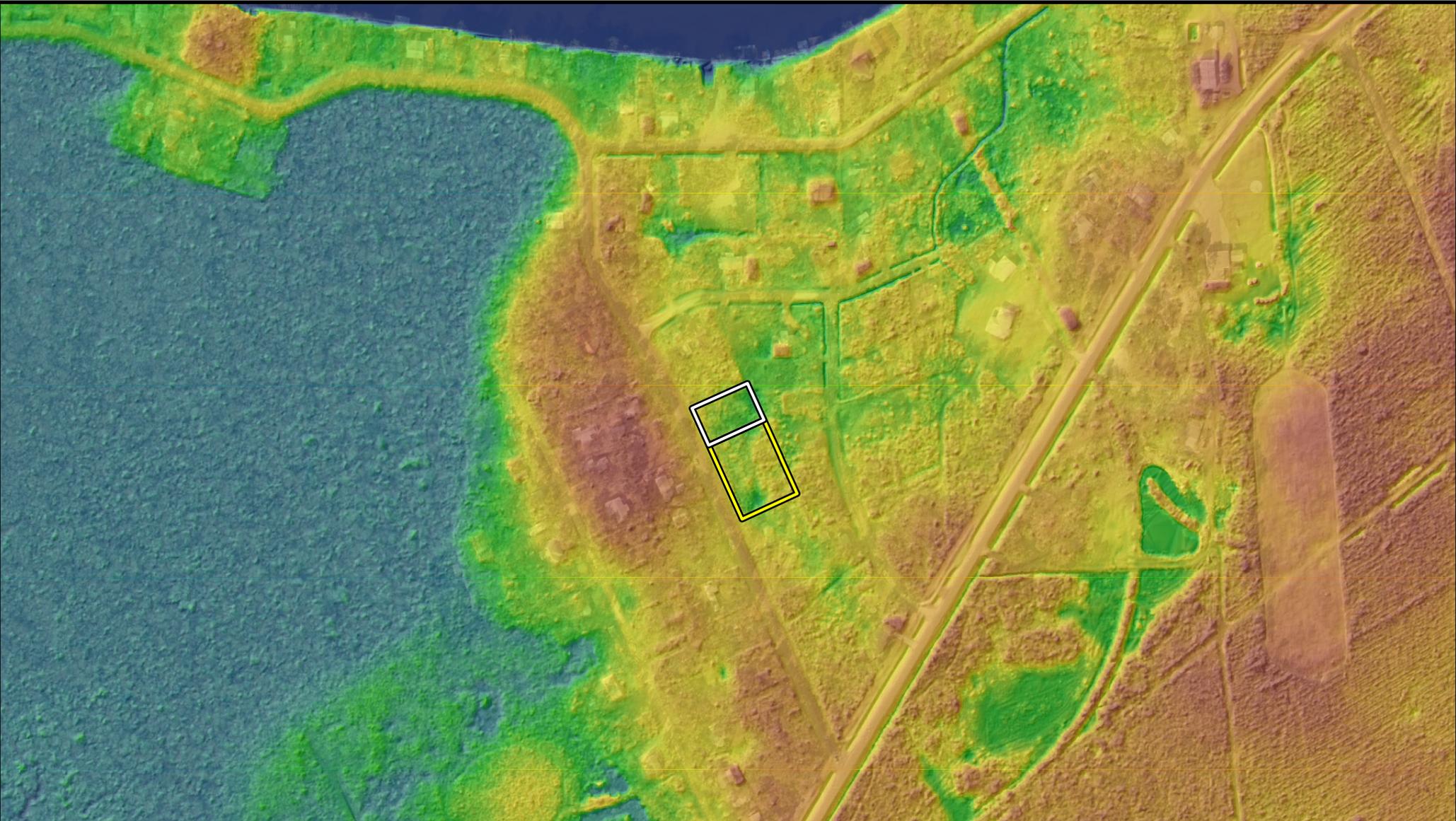


-  SRWMD Turkey Island
-  Barton Property
-  10 Year Floodplain
-  Floodway
- 100 Year Floodplain**
-  Zone A
-  Zone AE

Turkey Island (Barton) Property Offer Floodplain Protection

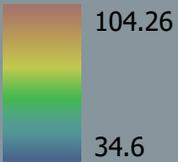


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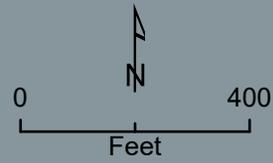


-  SRWMD Turkey Island
-  Barton Property

Bare Earth Elevation



**Turkey Island (Barton)
Property Offer
LIDAR**

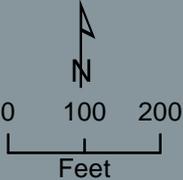


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SRWMD - Barton Adjacency Map Levy County

-  SRWMD Turkey Island
-  Barton Parcel
-  SRWMD Ownership
-  SRWMD Conservation Easement



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SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
 FROM: Lorna Radcliff, Chief, Office of Land Management
 THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
 DATE: April 23, 2025
 RE: Land Management Update Report

BACKGROUND

The following information summarizes land management activities cumulative as of March 31, 2025.

Natural Communities Management: The following tables represent activities that support overall natural community restoration and management across District lands.

Vegetative Management (acres)	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Herbicide Treatments	117	Start July	0.0%
Mechanical Treatments	3,214	1,043	32.4%
Mallory Swamp Mechanical Treatments	894	0	0.0%

Prescribed Fire (acres)	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
SRWMD	10,650	7,643	71.7%
FFS - Twin Rivers State Forest	700	248	35.4%

Invasive Plant Treatment	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Edwards Bottomland (acres)	7.11	Start June	0%
Contractors (acres)	145.83	Start June	0%
Starke Bypass (acres)	100	Start June	0%

Ecological Services Monitoring	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Rare Plants Monitoring (acres)	2,269	Start April	0%
Wading Bird Rookeries (sites)	13	Start April	0%
Natural Community Mapping (acres)	313	Start April	0%
Gopher Tortoise Surveys (acres)	159	110	69%

Timber Harvests	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Acreage Sold	1,764	2,462	139%
Revenue (estimated)	\$1,064,000	\$945,096.68	88%

Current Timber Sales	County	Acreage	Type	Status or Revenue
Sandlin Bay #9	Columbia	374	Thinning	Inactive
Woods Ferry #7	Suwannee	155	Thinning	Inactive
Cuba Bay #4	Madison	51	Thinning	Inactive
Steinhatchee Springs #24	Lafayette	192	Thinning	Inactive
Hurricane Helene Steinhatchee Salvage 1	Lafayette	128	Salvage Clearcut	Inactive
Hurricane Helene Steinhatchee Salvage 2	Lafayette	419	Salvage Clearcut	Inactive
Hurricane Helene Steinhatchee Salvage 3	Lafayette	117	Salvage Clearcut	Inactive
Hurricane Helene TRSF Selective Salvage Ellaville	Madison	592	Salvage Damaged Wood Only	Inactive
Hurricane Helene TRSF Selective Salvage Anderson Springs	Suwannee	219	Salvage Damaged Wood Only	\$66,414.21
Hurricane Helene TRSF Westwood West Chipping Salvage	Madison	130	Chip Damaged Wood Only	Active
Hatchbend #1	Lafayette	91	Clearcut	Out for Bid

Restoration	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Reforestation (acres)	293	293	100%

Land Management: The following tables represent tract and land management activities on the District's fee and less-than-fee owned properties.

Conservation Easements	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Monitor Current Easements	13	Start May	0%

Hydrologic & Road Maintenance	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Culvert Replacements	9	0	0%
Road maintenance (miles)	144	74.26	52%

Tract Maintenance	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Mowing (total miles)	1,710	426	25%

Site Maintenance (total visits)	2,736	549	20%
Enhanced Patrols (hours)	800	244	31%
Sign Replacements	51	7	13%
Boundary Line Painting (miles)	115.4	12	10%

Special Projects

The following information provides a status update on special projects within the Office of Land Management.

Mount Gilead Tract: EUTAW, Inc provided an estimate for design to update and fortify the boat ramp. Project is on hold pending hurricane repairs at other sites.

Starke Bypass Mitigation Area: The first round of mechanical vegetation treatment to control competition around newly planted seedlings has been completed. Invasive plant treatment work is scheduled to begin in June/July.

Telford Spring: In July, the District opened Telford Spring to the public. EUTAW, Inc. has completed a conceptual plan to improve parking and public access. The initial phase to develop the parking lot is planned. Site work is planned to begin in June 2025.

Storm Facility Repairs: Hurricane Debby and Hurricane Helene have damaged public use areas to varying degrees. Eight sites are currently undergoing plans for assessment and construction costs to repair. The sites under assessment are Suwannee Springs, Falmouth Springs, Owen Springs, Steinhatchee Falls, Blue Sink, Atsena Otie Key, and Lukens. FEMA conducted site inspections for the damaged facilities.

Suwannee Springs Park: The damaged staircase has been removed and an overlook observation area of the river constructed. The damaged fence has been repaired. Picnic table repair is underway.

Falmouth Springs Park: The park remains closed due to damage to the boardwalk. The boardwalk and fence were recently removed from the site including all debris. The picnic table repair is underway. Site design for spring access and parking design are planned.

Owen Springs Tract: The project is to improve public accessibility and reduce impacts to the natural system is underway. The heavy daylighting of main roads is completed. Reconfiguration of the parking area to increase parking spaces and improved access to the spring to reduce erosion are both planned. Site work is planned to begin in April.

Steinhatchee Falls Park: Topographic surveys and geotechnical investigations for the boat ramp reconstruction are complete. Preliminary site plans have been developed. Site design and engineering is 90 percent complete. FDEP and ACOE permits have been issued.

Blue Sink Canoe Launch: Removal of sediment from concrete pathway and repairs to erosion control matting is planned.

Atsena Otie Key: Coordination with the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge for repairs to the Clivus Mulch restroom, boardwalk, and kiosk is underway. USFWS engineering facility staff have conducted an assessment.

Lukens Kayak Launch: Due to launch site damage and erosion impacts from the storm, the site has been closed and removed from the public-use recreation map. Potential relocation of the site is being reviewed.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Lorna Radcliff, Chief, Office of Land Management
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
DATE: May 13, 2025
RE: Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Land Management Review Team Report

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Land Management Review Team Report.

BACKGROUND

The Land Management Review Team (LMRT) process is required by Section 373.591, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The process allows the public and other participants an opportunity to determine whether District land management activities were deficient, meeting, or exceeding the goals adopted by the Governing Board. The LMRT participants also score the District on whether land management activities are in compliance with Section 259.036, F.S.

The review focused on land management activities that were conducted in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY 2024). These activities will be summarized in the FY 2025 Land Management Annual Report. The content of the annual report will be presented to the Governing Board before October 2025.

On April 2, 2025, staff led a field tour of lands in the Northwest Region, which is in both the Aucilla and Econfina River Basins within Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties. This region contains 23,496 acres of fee lands or 19% of total fee ownership District-wide. The main area of emphasis on the tour was the protection of water resources, managing natural communities, and public use.

The LMRT process continues to provide an opportunity for dialogue between the staff, members of our communities, and other agencies regarding the management of District lands. The participants' scores indicate substantial acceptance of the programmatic achievement of the management strategies set by the Governing Board and Florida Statutes. Overall, the participants approve of the planning and methods used by District staff in managing the District's fee-owned lands in FY 2024.

LLR/ao
Attachment

Suwannee River Water Management District

Fiscal Year 2025 Land Management Review Team Report

Executive Summary

District staff conducted a Land Management Review Team (LMRT) meeting and site inspection on April 2, 2025. The review focused on District-wide land management activities that were conducted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Program areas reviewed include water resources, natural resource management, public use, and facilities on representative areas. The field tour focused on the 23,496 acres of fee-owned lands located in the Northwest Region.

The LMRT was asked to score whether the District was achieving its management strategies from the District Land Management Plan (DLMP) using the following scores:

- 0 – District is not meeting the strategies of the DLMP;
- 1 – District is meeting the strategies of the DLMP; and
- 2 – District is meeting and exceeding the strategies outlined in the DLMP.

The review team scored the ten management strategies from the District Land Management Plan (DLMP). The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.78 which was slightly higher than last year's average score of 1.76.

There are two statutory scores. The first, "Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access," received a score of 1.89. The second, "Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan," received a score of 2.00. These scores signify the land management activities meet and exceed the Governing Board's management strategies outlined in the DLMP and Florida Statutes (F.S.).

The participants scores indicate substantial acceptance with the programmatic achievement of the management strategies set by the Governing Board and Florida Statutes. Overall, the participants approve the planning and methods used by District staff in managing the District's fee-titled lands in FY 2024.

Introduction

Section 373.591, F.S., requires that the District annually establish Land Management Review Team(s) (LMRT) to determine if lands titled to the Governing Board are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with the land management plan. Staff reports the LMRT's findings to the Governing Board by October 1 of each year. This report is prepared for that purpose.

Background

The LMRT participants were provided with the District's "Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Land Management Annual Report" which summarized all activities conducted during FY 2024. The annual report provides the participants a programmatic summary of projects and activities.

A field inspection was led by District staff and included lands in the Northwest Region. This inspection allows the participants to see the conditions on the ground and personally inspect the properties and management activities to assist in developing scores for the DLMP management strategies.

Land Management Review Team Meeting

On April 2, 2025, staff led a field tour of lands in the Northwest Region, which is in both the Aucilla and Econfina River Basins and within Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor counties. The Northwest Region is 23,496 acres of fee lands or 19% of total fee ownership District-wide. The main area of emphasis on the tour was the protection water resources, managing natural communities, and public use.

Ten individuals representing private landowners, interest groups, non-profits, colleges, and agencies participated in the LMRT. Ten participants completed the scorecard. Staff provided the agenda, District Land Management Plan, FY 2023-2024 Annual Land Management Report, and the LMRT tour infographic handout to the participants for their use during the review.

Staff conducted the tour at Goose Pasture Campground, Lost Dog Falls, White Pond and a stop point at a forest management area to indicate to the participants the natural hydrology, actions taken by the District to preserve and buffer these resources, natural community management techniques and public use facilities.

The District's "Excellence in Land Management" (ELM) program was established to quantify land management operations in meeting the management strategies set forth by the Governing Board in the DLMP. The participants were provided with the ELM Scorecard to document their determination on whether the activities they saw or discussed were deficient, meeting, or exceeding the strategies adopted by the Governing Board. The participants also scored, using the same criteria, whether actions were in compliance with Section 259.036, F.S.

The ELM scorecard is annually calculated based on completed District land management operations from the prior year. LMRT members score District land management efforts on the following scale:

- 0 – District is not meeting the strategies of the DLMP;
- 1 – District is meeting the strategies of the DLMP; and
- 2 – District is meeting and exceeding the strategies outlined in the DLMP.

The ELM scores represent the average totaled from all participating member's scores.

Results

The review team scored the ten management strategies from the District Land Management Plan (DLMP). Scores ranging from a low of 1.60 for Communications to the highest score of 2.00 for Public Use management. Management of Fiscal Responsibility along with Aesthetics and Visual Resources received a score of 1.90. Management of Water Resources, Ground Cover received a score of 1.80. Soils & Topography, Forest Resources, Rare Species, and Cultural Resources received a score of 1.70. The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.78 which was slightly higher than last year's average score of 1.76.

There are two statutory scores. The first, “Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access” received a score of 1.89. The second, “Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan” received a score of 2.00. These scores signify the land management activities meet and exceed the Governing Board’s management strategies outlined in the DLMP and Florida Statutes.

The participants scores indicate substantial acceptance with the programmatic achievement of the management strategies set by the Governing Board and Florida Statutes. Overall, the participants approve the planning and methods used by District staff in managing the District’s fee titled lands in FY 2024.

Suwannee River Water Management District

Excellence in Land Management Scorecard

Land Management Review Team Findings FY 2024 Land Management Activities

1. Water Resource Strategies

Score: 1.80

- Minimize structural floodplain management on District-managed lands.
- Maintain surface and groundwater quantity and quality during land management activities by using Silviculture best management practices (BMPs).
- Restore hydrologic regimes to the designated DFC where possible.
- Design and maintain water control structures to simulate natural hydrology.

Water Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- Good work on erosion control at heavy public use area we visited on stop 2.
- I commend the team for their efforts and successes at maintaining surface water quality. The efforts to correct misuse of the camping area at Lost Dog Falls is very impressive.
- District staff pay close attention to protecting water resources: design/construction of use facilities is minimal while controlling erosion. Meet or exceed BMPs with silvicultural resources: inspect/protect/replace structures before problems start.
- Land management team is applying BMPs and taking a proactive approach to maintaining hydro structures. Allowing public access while maintaining plan to reach desired future conditions.

2. Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Strategies

Score: 1.70

- Minimize soil degradation (erosion, compaction).
- Manage and/or restore historic natural plant communities using designated DFC guidelines where practical.
- Update and maintain current forest/natural community reference data.

Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- Where possible, minimize mechanical work to keep soil compaction down. Good work on erosion control.
- Good job at restoring longleaf communities and maintaining a constant fire rotation.
- I mention this in the public use section, but good work on erosion prevention with the modifications to the Lost Dog site.
- Auctions to address erosion scars is impressive.
- Demonstrated by public use area restoration and management; solid Rx fire management with focus on prescribed return intervals; and maintaining a working forest inventory.
- District is managing upland forest areas using BMPs, restoring to DFCs.

3. Ground Cover Resource Strategies

Score: 1.80

- Reduce degradation of the existing native groundcover.
- Restore/maintain designated Fire Return Intervals for natural plant communities following DFC guidelines.
- Monitor the grass, herbaceous and shrub layers to detect if the resource falls within DFC guidelines.

- Reintroduce or supplement current native ground covers with local stock where needed to achieve ecosystem functions.

Ground Cover Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- Consider growing season burning where appropriate and possible.
- The introduction of prescribed fire has drastically changed ground cover. Looks good.
- I was happy to hear there have been efforts to restore native groundcover. Keep up the good work on prescribed fire.
- Commendation for monitoring efforts in fire intervals.
- Demonstrated by mechanical treatments where Rx fire is restricted; well managed fire planning and implementation on return intervals that support ground cover requirements; and supplements plantings and monitoring.
- Would like to see 100% of invasive species plants eradicated and not monitored.
- LMT is using prescribed fire on those areas where results can be achieved without tree mortality and smoke danger. Mechanical and herbaceous treatments being used in areas where fire cannot be introduced.

4. Forest Resource Strategies

Score: 1.70

- Manage for natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest, including retaining dominant and/or old growth trees and snags.
- Maintain the dominant and co-dominant tree species within the DFC acceptable parameter range.
- Reforest within DFC parameters using techniques that minimize damage to other natural resources.
- Utilize silvicultural BMPs.
- Maintain an accurate and current forest resource inventory.
- Ensure that commercial harvests provide the maximum financial returns possible with the consistent attainment of primary natural resource values.

Forest Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- While maximizing financial returns on timber is important, it can conflict with DFCs. Water resources are best protected by forests with lower basal areas and longer rotations.
- Pine forests are well maintained.
- Excellence of Best Management Practices is commendable.
- Demonstrated by well-planned timber thinning to support DFCs; close attention to site conditions for reforestation; meeting and exceeding BMPs during silvicultural operations; and maintenance of forest inventory.
- Good progress with long-term goals.
- LMT is using BMPs to achieve DFC, while maximizing financial returns using mini market spikes, weather, and recently salvage sales. Team has and maintains a 10-year rotation inventory.

5. Rare Species Resource Strategies

Score: 1.70

- Protect and manage biodiversity on District lands.
- Identify and monitor rare species on District lands.
- Provide staff with the most current rare species locations, status, and Rare Species Best Management Practices (BMP).

- Maintain and/or increase existing rare and imperiled species populations on District lands.

Rare Species Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- Good work keeping rare and imperiled species lists up to date with regular plant and wildlife monitoring. Good work keeping staff and contractors informed of rare species location to inform management activities and BMP.
- I commend the land managers for continuing to identify native species and maintaining habitats of ones discovered.
- Resource monitoring of known threatened and endangered habitats and occurrences; database of know locations; awareness of the species resources.
- Rare species are being identified and maintained. Exotic invasives are being identified, currently at 713 acres, with 26 infestations being declared inactive in 2024 after treatments has been applied.

6. Cultural and Historic Resource Strategies

Score: 1.70

- Protect and prevent negative impacts to cultural and historical resources during all activities.
- Document location of significant cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands and share information with the Division of Historic Resources within the Department of State.
- Monitor the condition of cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands.

Cultural and Historic Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- I commend the team for their efforts to identify and protecting cultural resources. Also, utilizing FWC for enforcement.
- Monitored more than the required number of sites last year.
- Glad to hear about the follow ups to cultural resources status after the last storm season.
- Good to hear your efforts with limited staff and through partnerships with other agencies.
- Team monitors all known cultural and historical sites. Reporting of any disturbance being reported to appropriate agencies.

7. Aesthetic and Visual Resource Strategies

Score: 1.90

- Maintain or enhance overall visual quality of District lands
- Minimize or mitigate short-term negative appearances of land management activities

Aesthetic and Visual Resource Comments/ Opportunities for Improvement

- Good work with timber thinning and uneven aged management that includes regular prescribed burning.
- The area looks fantastic! Especially after last year's storm season, it is clear a lot of work has gone into the clearing debris and keeping the area looking good.
- The team does a tremendous job at maintaining the facilities natural beauty and seeing to the needs of visitors.
- Tremendous level of work to recover sites after storms. Management of contracts and cooperative agreements to keep sites ship-shape.
- All sites visiting were beneficially kept and accessible. Recreation sites had trash containers. Sites are hardened with erosion control, traffic barriers, and maintained.

8. Public Use Strategies

Score: 2.00

- Establishing and maintaining public use on District lands.
- Provide Special Use Authorizations (SUA) for compatible public use activities.
- Follow Governing Board Directives 90-2 and 92-1 for exclusive use requests.
- Provide hunting and fishing opportunities on District lands.
- Coordinate with law enforcement agencies to enforce Florida statutes and administrative rules on District-managed lands.
- During emergency situations, staff will assist persons in danger and communicate responses with the appropriate agency.

Public Use Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- Good work automating reservation systems and assisting technology-challenged customers with their reservations. Public use facilities are appropriate and well maintained. Hunting, fishing, etc. opportunities are great.
- I am impressed by the extent of public use opportunities on the area. I appreciate the modifications made to the Lost Dog site (stairs to the water and barriers to prevent irresponsible use). This seems like a great way to increase accessibility while protecting natural resources from erosion.
- I commend the team for providing access to the facility and for encouraging uses that preserve natural resources misuse to the area.
- Look into ways to allow UTV trails in this area. Stickers, similar to the Big Cypress. Require insurance. This would be great for families that love the outdoors. Maybe a working group to discuss.
- New online SUA system is well received. Extra efforts to recover and reopen sites post storms. Good communication about site access and opportunity availability.
- Gates are not a necessity on roads that are main roads for certain properties. There is nothing more aggravating than driving down a rough road for 2 miles only to find a locked gate.
- Team seems to have high priority on public access. New utilization of online application of SUAs seem positive. Good coordination with FWC, SOs, and private landowners.

9. Communications Strategies

Score: 1.60

- Obtain public and private stakeholder's input in the management of District lands.
- Use applicable modes of communication to encourage and promote public recreation on District lands.
- Ensure public inquiries into management activities or public use are addressed in a timely manner.
- Complete an annual land management report and conduct the annual LMRT following the guidance of the DLMP.

Communications Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- Observations of the public use areas appear to be well known by the public.
- Good online presence. Good response times to inquiries. Well documented LM work in LM Report.
- Good communication of District strategy and progress to achieve DFC through the LMRT. Good info being provided through internet, social media, and kiosks on site.

10. Fiscal Responsibility Strategies

Score: 1.90

- Ensure revenues are derived from operations conducted to achieve land management objectives.
- Minimize structural operational management approaches wherever practical.
- Contract with the most cost-effective and experienced firms to complete land management activities following District policies.
- Coordinate with other land management agencies and organizations to complete land management activities to reduce District costs.
- Attempt to locate and obtain grants to help fund projects on District lands.
- Assist with the surplus lands program to ensure funds derived from the disposals of unneeded land holdings are redirected to fund the purchase of higher value, water-resource lands.

Fiscal Responsibility Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

- Good work with grants. Consider requesting funds from DEP and Legislature to cover falling timber harvest revenue. Avoid industrial timber management for revenue as a priority – lands were purchased for water resource protection.
- After last year's storm season, I was impressed to hear about all the restoration efforts that were completed while also maintaining recreational opportunities and other land management activities within the operational budget.
- I commend the team for their excellent management of limited funds. Specifically, their partnerships and coordination with their groups/agencies.
- Financial gain in 2024. Good planning for and use of timber revenues.
- Great effort to utilize revenue from operations back into the programs to support overall goals.
- Team is doing a good job maximizing revenue, accessing grants, and utilizing experienced contractors to achieve District goals and objectives.

Florida Statute 259.036, states that the Land Management Review Team shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides enough protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are following the adopted management plan.

- Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?

Comments

Score: 1.89

- Water resource protection (purpose for which they were acquired) is being accomplished by existing management policies and activities.
- Community restoration and public access are the forefront of the land use. This public land is well managed, especially for hunters.
- District lands are doing an excellent job managing the property to maintain natural resources and public access.
- Public access, resource management, and resource protection.
- The land management team at SRWMD is dedicated and motivated to achieve the strategies in the DLMP.

- Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan? This includes sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and/or archaeological features.

Comments

Score: 2.00

- While it is always nice to have more financial resources for land management, SRWMD has a great balance of land management priorities and has a dedicated staff who are great stewards of both the lands and our tax dollars.
- Yes, they have met all the standards of preserving and protecting special use sites and features.
- It sounds like staff is doing an excellent job implementing the District Land Management Plan, while also looking for new opportunities to improve management.
- Good group of professionals.
- Strategies in LMP are clear, concise, and District staff do an excellent job of highlighting how they are meeting them.
- Land management team is meeting or exceeding my expectations of the DLMP.

General Comments

- Thank you for stewarding these special places.
- Y'all are doing a great job.
- All in all, the SRWMD is doing a great job on all aspects of maintaining the property and roads.
- Great overall efforts to balance budgets, usage by public, renewable products, and Florida's laws. Great efforts in partnerships with other agencies to maximize public benefit.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Susanna Hetrick, Chief, Office of Water Resources

THRU: Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: April 10, 2025

RE: **Public Hearing** and Approval of the 2025 Coastal Rivers Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing to approve the 2025 Coastal Rivers Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan Update.

BACKGROUND

In 1987, the Florida legislature passed the SWIM Act, Section 373.451, Florida Statutes (F.S.), which directed the water management districts to identify priority water bodies and develop plans for improving and managing them. SWIM plans summarize what is known about priority water bodies related to their past and present conditions, and outlines strategies and specific projects aimed at improvement and protection of the water bodies.

The Coastal Rivers SWIM Plan identifies the Aucilla, Wacissa, Econfina, Fenholloway, Steinhatchee, and Waccasassa rivers as priority water bodies, which were prioritized for SWIM planning by the District beginning in the 1980's. The restoration and protection needs of each priority water body are centered on the concepts of protecting flows and water quality.

The 2025 Coastal Rivers SWIM Plan Update includes descriptions of each priority water body in the basin, identification of governmental agencies with jurisdiction in the basin, a description of land uses in the basin, identification of point and nonpoint pollution sources within the basin, strategies for restoration and protection of the water bodies, lists of active and proposed projects that will support those strategies, and estimates of funding needed to implement the projects.

In accordance with Section 373.453(3), F.S., the District provided the draft plan to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and to all governmental units with jurisdiction within the District for their review and comment within the statutory time frames. In addition, the District issued a press release and posted the plan online for public review and comment. Comments received were incorporated into the draft plan. On April 8, 2025, the District held a public workshop at District headquarters in Live Oak to obtain public input prior to finalizing this SWIM Plan.

This public hearing is a required component of the SWIM Plan development process. If approved the District will transmit the plan to FDEP for their final review.

SH/ao